

IN THE TABLOID:

**EVERY HOME** LD HAVE THEM

DAVID BADDIEL:



HOLIDAYS IN CYBERSPACE **PLUS IT APPOINTMENTS** 



# Major slides backwards into the sleazy mire

Chief Political Correspondent

sleaze, but John Major promptly dragged his party back into the mire with a clear warning to Neil Hamilton that he could be expelled from the Commons if he persisted in standing for the

In an astonishing open letter to all Conservative association chairmen, the Prime Minister said that the Commons had "draconian powers" to act

Although it did not mention Mr Hamilton by name, the letter's message was clear: "All these many issues may be unresolved now but they won't remain unresolved for long," it

The move was being read as a last-ditch attempt to per-suade the Tory association in Tatton not to endorse Mr Hamilton as their candidate at his adoption meeting on 7. April, and as a final appeal to

get him to stand down. The report of the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges would be pub-

SAF asbestos claims workers are to give evidence in London against the British companies which they say poi-

soned them with mercury and

Marching begins
The sharp divisions within Ulster

localism were publicly encapsa-

lated vesterday when the new

marching season's first disputed

parade passed off with an serious

hring an end to an epidemic of tax-dodging. Page II

Rebels are advancing in the cast.

Western troops are lurking

across the ricer, and one of the

president's closest allies has

just denounced him, yet in

Zaire's plendered capital of

THE BROADSMEET

Kinshasa waits

**ETHEKLY** 

lished after the election and if it criticised Conservative MPs. Mr Major said: "I for one will wish Parliament to act quickly to raise the election above and decisively to uphold its

reputation. The House of Commons has draconian powers. The Cooservative Party will support their use if criticism is severe enough to merit it. It can, of course, also withdraw the whip

if that seems appropriate."

Mr Major will today reinforce the message with a Westminster press conference. which is now certain to be dominated by questions of sleaze. By taking the issue head on, the Prime Minister is attempting to burn out the sleaze controversy and get the Conservatives back on track before the launch of their election manifesto

Unsubstantiated allegations should not cheat the electorate of the dehate about which party is hest suited to form the government for the next five years. Mr Major

A senior party source said last night: "The party is frustrated that the election campaign has been diverted from the real is-

I'll accentuate the positive, says Blair Cvril Smith's warning for Ashdown. Election countdown, page 7;

Letters, page 13; Let Tatton judge, Andreas Whittam Smith, page 15

not ducking these issues. He is willing to deal with them, and

sues. The Prime Minister is the seat is for the candidate." The Conservative campaign risks becoming more mired in nswer questions." the sleaze allegations of each for Clearly disclosing his own questions against Mr Hamilton.

6 Sleaze may hurt the Tories, but it hurts politics too. It hurts this election. It helps nobody 9

on to policy issues in the elec-tion campaiga, the Prime Min-ister said that under Tory party rules, he did not have the power to impose new candidates on the constituencies, but he added: "The decision to contest

frustration at his failure to get on to policy issues in the elec-tion campaign, the Prime Min-Merchant, the MP for Beckenham, at a time when Labour strategists helieved that the public were becoming tired of

Unveiling Labour's campaign

Mr Blair yesterday he wanted to raise the campaign above

He announced that he had ordered the "two-faced" John Major posters to be replaced with positive messages oo new sites across Britain. "Sleaze may hurt the Tories, but it hurts politics too. It hurts this election. It helps oobody." he said. The launch of Labour's cam-

paign in the sumptuous grounds of a Kent country house hotel was intended to focus Labour's appeal at Conservative voters in the key Tory marginals.

While Mr Major fights sleaze, Alan Howarth, the Tory defec-tor to Labour, will today be used by his new party's leadership to appeal to floating Conservative voters to trust Mr Blair, as the two main parties begin their election campaigns in earnest. Giving top billing to Mr Howarth, the former Tory MP for

Stratford-vo-Avon, Warwickshire, Labour campaign strategists led by Peter Mandelson are changing the tone of their campaign to avoid alienating Conservative voters.

shadow Chancellor, Gordon

receotly selected for the safe Labour seat of Newport East, will tell disillusioned Tories that the Conservatives will become more extreme if they win the

election. The Prime Minister's attack on sleaze came after clear signs of disarray in the Conservative camp over how to handle the MPs who refused to quit. The day began with a party grandee. Dame Jill Knight, signalling that the Tory leadership had givco up its hopes of dumping the MPs after a weekend of pres-

sure to get them to go gracefully. The deputy Labour leader, John Prescott, said that the Tories were "a party that can't be led with a leader that can't

Mr Major faces further trouhle next Thursday when he goes to Scotland, where his party chairman, Sir Michael Hirst, has resigned over allegations about his private life. Labour will be launching its own manifesto on "One Nation" themes, including a promise to underpin fam-ity life, giving employees the right to acoual holidays, Flanked by Mr Blair and the parental leave and a maximum working week of 48 hours.

Firemen removed the rocks

using slings and a JCB. Tony Mullard, who was io charge of the operation, said: "It appears the heat from the fire caused the

rocks to become unstable." The scouts were asleep in

their tents when the disaster

struck. They were taken to the village scout but in Cleobury

Mortimor and given chocolate

until their parents arrived to col-

Some scouts and their lead-

ers were in tears as they returned to pack up camp yesterday. They were due to

have tackled an assault course

Mr Hill's girlfriend, Sandra

Oliver, was among the five

scout leaders in charge of the

Group scout leader Martin Packler said: "The two young

lads who died were very dedi-

cated scouts. They had come up

from the cubs and they lived and

hreathed scouting. They just

children at the cam

lect them during the night.

## Thatcher lined up to be Blair's ambassador in Washington

**EXCLUSIVE** 

by Jojo Moyes

Tony Blair will appoint Baroness Thatcher to the post of Washingtoo ambassador in eturn for her endorsing abour shortly hefore 1 May. he Independent can reveal.

Lady Thatcher has already old friends that she admires Mr Blair's disciplined determina-tion. She was reported in the Daily Mail last September saying: "He knows exactly what he ants and how to go about

achieving it."

Mr Blair, for his part, has put
his respect for Lady Thatcher's leadership qualities on record. He wants to create a new pol-ities, in which talented and experienced people of all views are welcomed into government,

regardless of their views.
Labour advisers emphasise that Washingtoo is deemed the perfect post, because the former Tory prime minister cuts a formidable figure in American political circles.

She is regarded almost reverentially by the Capitol-Hill élite, as well as academic and

usiness folk across the US. The understanding has been rokered by one of the Washngton embassy's former rising tars, Jonathan Powell, who eft the diplomatic service to become an aide to Mr Blair. Mr Powell is a younger brother of Sir Charles Powell, Lady Thatcher's former foreign-

olicy adviser. The growing bond between the Blair and Thatcher camps has been aided by the close friendhip between Carla, Sir Charles's Italian wife, and Peter Mandelson, Mr Blair's Machiavellian aide: the pair are often seen on each other's arms at soirces.

Lady Thatcher will take over from Sir John Kerr, who, it was anounced in February, will reurn to Loodoo later this year head the Diplomatic Service. decision oo the Washingtoo



reverentially on Capitol Hill

ambassadorship, the most sought-after Foreign Office posting, was to be delayed until after the election. But sources say that the US administration has been sounded out unofficially, and that President Clinton is "more than happy" with the appointment.

If the posting is confirmed, Lady Thatcher will enjoy the comforts of a magnificent Lutyens residence on Massachusetts Avenue, described as the "second-nicest house to Washingtoo", with its white coloonade, footmeo, white and gold Minton china decorated with the Royal cypher, and up to £14m a year running costs.

Sir Denis Thatcher has already made one "reconnaissance" trip to scout out which of Washing ton's exclusive country clubs will become his golfing venue. He will find President Clinton a keen partner on the greens. At an auction in aid of his daughter's school last year there was fierce bidding for the President's offer of 18 holes with himself at the

Army-Navy Country Club. As one source close to Mr Blair put it last night: "Who cares what she did to Britain? What matters oow is whether she'll help us win Basildoo."

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# 'The rocks fell without warning'

Two scout leaders were crushed to death vesterday when 10 tons of rocks collapsed on them while they sat talking round a camp tire. Another scout leader, Marcus Hill, 25, was sitting against a rock face on the opposite side of the camp fire and escaped unhum.

meident in south Belfast Page 5 The scout leaders had lit the Russia's tax D-day bonfire beneath an overhanging 150-high sandstone rock out-Today is the deadline for Russians to hand in their personal crop to celebrate the last night income tax returns, an opporof their three-day Easter camp unity to discover if the govat Cider Hill Farm, Cleobury ernment has made any progress Mortimor, Shropshire, with a massive compaign to Only two hours before the

from KD 11 troop in Kidderminster had been sitting round the fire, eojoving a sing song. But at 11pm three of the scout leaders took the children, aged 12 to 15, back to their tents in a meadow 150m away. The boys were then given hot chocolate and went to sleep. Kinshasa life goes on with an air
Two of the leaders stayed by
of surreal normality. Page 12 the fire and Marcus joined

them later. They were unwinding and having a can of beer," said Supt Peter Picken of West Mencia police. "The incident has all the hallmarks of a tragic

The scout group had stayed regularly at the farm for more than a decade and always huilt their camp lire under the rocky outcrop to avoid damaging the farmer's field. It is thought that

rock which weighed more than

tragedy occurred, all 12 scouts by the fire. They were sitting on the floor in the most comfortable places around the fire, so he squatted opposite them. against the rock face.

the heat from the fire, combined with the cold night air, may have caused the rockfull. The two scout leaders who died were huried beneath one

Marcus Hill had helped to supervise the scouts' bedtime and then returned to join Stuart Perkins and David Weaver

We were actually sat roond the fire talking and without warning the rocks just fell on



us," said Mr Hill who was treated in hospital for shock. "There was no warning whatsoever. "We were talking about television, cars, life in general and the rocks just fell on top of

They both disappeared from view when the rocks fell. I was not touched by the rocks."

pack's scout leader for two years, clawed at the rocks to rescue his friends. All three had ioined the scout troop as cubs when they were eight. He said: "I couldn't move the rocks. I just crawled over the top of the rocks. which were piled up aboot three-feet high."

Mr Hill ran almost half a mile Mr Hill, who has been the to raise the alarmat a call box loved it."

Comment .....13-15 Crossword .....24 Visual Arts . . . . . . . . . . 4,5

## significant shorts

### The perfect bank holiday warm, sunny and empty

Britain has just had its warmest and sunniest Easter since 1989, with temperatures rising to 16-17C away from sea breezes, but a record 1.5 million people missed it by leaving the country.

Airports in the United Kingdom handled about 900,000 passengers over the holiday period. Gatwick reported an "incredibly busy" time, with 294,000 passengers in the main four days. 17 per cent up on last year, and Heathrow had 1.2 million from last Wednesday to today – 42,000 more than last year.

The Channel Tunnel was being used to the limit of the restricted capacity allowed since last year's fire. Le Shuttle said it carried

capacity allowed since last year's fire. Le Shuttle said it carried capacity allowed since last year's fire. Le Shuttle said it carried 110,000 car passengers on its trains, nearly 15 per cent more than last Easter. Eurostar said 120,000-140,000 people used its trains between London and Paris or Brussels, close to its maximum. Not to be beaten, the main cross-Channel ferry operators also reported near-capacity bookings.

Before the evening traffic huild-up, AA Roadwatch said some of the husiest roads were around Whipsnade zoo park in Bedfordshire, where a haby white rhinoceros the size of a labrador dog hut "with dinner-plate feet and enormous ears" was adding to the attractions.

### Two die at railway blackspot

Two tecnagers died after being hit by a passenger train at a notorious blackspot for rail vandals in Leeds. One was killed instantly and the other was declared dead at hospital soon after they were struck by the Middlesbrough-to-Manchester airport train travelling at around 70mph on Sunday night.

The youths, 15 and 17, were found near the main trans-Pennine line. A Railtrack spokesyonan said years the task of bird youth.

line. A Railtrack spokeswoman said yesterday that a third youth who was present ran away but was later traced and was being questioned by police. She said the accident scene, near a road bridge over the two rail lines, was known as a blackspot for trespassing and vandalism. Railtrack and British Transport Police launched an immediate inquiry.

### Tower miners open their doors

Tower Colliery, Britain's only worker-owned pit and Wales's only surviving deep mine, is opening a window on mining history with a visitor centre, inaugurated vesterday in the shadow of the pit's

winding gear in the Lee of Rhigus Mountain near Aberdare. The colliery has been producing coal for more than

a century and was saved from closure by British Coal in 1994 after the 240 miners each chipped in £8,000 to huy it. It has been run et a profit for the last two years. Tyronc O'Sullivan (far left

of picture), former secretary of the Colliery's National Union of Mineworkers' dge and now a director of he pit co-op believes the aga of Tower's survival has essons for other enterprises struggling to stay afloat. Community support was vital to us. Our new visitors' centre underlines this and is a lasting tribute to those who

The centre uses videos photographs, historic documents and press cuttings to describe the pit's fight for survival. Tony Heath

### Diving trio suffer bends

Three British divers were yesterday said to be "doing well" at a special medical unit in Belgium after getting into difficulties off the

The trio, all members of a diving club in Folkestone, were thought to be suffering from "the hends" when they surfaced, a Dover coastguard said. He said that a helicopter had first planned to take the three men to a decompression unit at Portsmouth, Hampshire, but it was unable to land because of fog. The next nearest unit was in Ostend.

### Scilly Isles clean-up

Environmental experts have expressed confidence that oil washed ashore from the Antiguan-registered cargo ship Cita, which went aground off the Scilly Isles in gales last week, would cause little coastal damage.

In an operation to clean a beach at Porth Hellick hay, a site of special scientific interest on St Mary's, oiled sand will be removed by mechanical diggers, cleaned and returned to the heach, and rocks will be washed by local authority workmen and Marine Control Pollution Unit personnel. The tug Salvage Chief continued pumping around 90 tonnes of fuel oil from the wrecked vessel.

### Fatal end to stag party

Police were yesterday investigating the death of a best man who fell from a mini-bus returning from a stag party at the weekend. Police said the bus was travelling at about Lamph when the man jumped or fell as the group he was with was returning to Doncaster from York. The 25-year-old suffered serious head injuries and died later in Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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### people



## Judgement day for the brave news face of Channel Five

irsty Young, the young Scotswoman catapulted into anchoring Channel 5 News amlost much hype, got an early chance to prove she's no dumb blonde last night by cross-examining on camera the man most likely to be Prime Minister on 2 May.

As she probed Tony Blair in a live set-piece interview, those of us on the receiving end of all the surrounding puff and publicity were. granted a swift opportunity to judge whether she is as smart and cool under pressure as her new bosses boast or "Selina Scott without the brains", as her harshest critics hava helped us." Mr O'Sullivan suggested. The Blair interview was a pre-

news programma generated some around 1 million. headlines of its own. But, Britain's None the less, ( last free-to-air television network will have to work hard on the publicity front if it is to weave itself into the fabric of British life in the next few weeks and months.

Only one of its first night offerings

A Catholic priest in Liverpool who

Father Arthur Fitzgerald, of St

Michael'e church in Liverpool, was

arrested inside a British Aerospace

factory at Warton In Lancashire after he held an Easter liturgy with

demonstrate against human rights

The factory constructs Hawk

service with a human rights message

yesterday conducted an Easter

was arrested for his trouble.

parishioners and refugees to

trainer jets which are sold to

Indonesia where, human rights

activists maintain, they are used

against the people in East Timor.

At dawn, a party of eight protesters including Fr Fitzgerald

the fence at the base to protest.

held a peaceful prayer service

outside the gates.

Tha demonstration marked the

start of a day of action at the base,

where 50 other demonstrators later

Four East Timor refugees joined

the demonstrators, singing songs,

unturling banners and giving out

Easter aggs to BAe'a aecurity

Fr Fitzgerald and the eight

protesters were arrested after the

security guards asked them to leave,

escorted them to the perimeter fence

and handed them over to the police.

Before his arrest Fr Fitzgerald

formed a human stepladder to climb

abuses in indonesia.

Spice Girls - ettracted over 2 million - Channel 4, a viewers on Sunday right, according new station said. The to unofficial overnight figures which py with the figures especially. emerged yesterday.

The opening episode of its fivenight-a-week soap Family Affairs was watched by just 1.5 million people - less than a tenth of the number which tunes into EastEnders or. Coronation Street. The same modest number bothered to watch Beyond Fear, a drama about the Stephanie Slater kidnapping.

Even fewer - around 1 million according to the early estimates - tuned into the debut edition of The Jack Docherty Show, which starred tha Spice Girls (again) and ageing The Blair interview was a pre-dictable ploy to ensure that the first evening, the opening episode of full edition of Channel 5's flagship medical spoot Hospital! also draw

> tives were as determindedly upbeat as their station's misery-free soap yesterday, claiming an early victory in the ratings war over their closest rivals Channel 4.

Pointing out that its prime-time a curtain-raising show featuring a share of total audience was 5.8 per specially commissioned song by the cent compared with 4.7 per cent for

said: "British Aerospace Hawk jets

are being used by the Indonesian

regime to support attacks in East

death has to stop.

Timor and West Papua. Thia trade in

BAe would not comment on the

the protest had gone ahead and said

their response to any demonstration

"is as always to respect any lawful

protest but to take positive action in

tha event that env illegal acts are

The protesters were held for

near Blackpool, where they were

later charged with civil aviation

questioning at Lytham police station.

trespass, according to Lancashire police. Fr Fitzgerald and three other

British nationals, none of whom were

named by the police, were released

on bail to appear before magistrates

were also due to appear in the court

Last July, four women, arrested at the base, were acquitted by a crown court jury in Liverpool of causing

The East Timor refugees were

remanded in police custody and

today, a police spokesman sald.

criminal damage to a Hawk jet

estimated at £10m, after they

successfully pleaded they were

entitled to use reasonable force in

trying to prevent of East Timor.

Matthew Brace trying to prevent of a crima against

directed against our sites'

claims by protesters but confirmed

Turbulent day for priest

in human rights protest

py with the figures especially as it was such a beautiful suriny bank holiday. It is a very good result considering we are aiming for a 5 per cent overall share by the end of the year."

The figures are certainly broadly in line with the modest forecasts Channel 5 wisely issued on the eve of its first transmission. Normally new networks can count upon a high curiosity factor playing in their favour, but launching on Easter Sunday was

always going to be a disadvantage.
The number of calls flooding into Channel 5's special helpline—3.5 million in the last fortnight - suggest that the station has aroused the public's interest and awareness. Most inquirles have been about reception problems or requests for procent about re-tuning

Since coming on air, a fresh complaint has been about the 5 logo which is superimposed permanently on the top left-hand comer of the television screen - seen by the station's marketing team as a smart plece of branding. Rob Brown

Sailor admits

he started

mutiny in war

A former Royal navy sailor

has confessed that he was

lan Lawton, 72, described

haw he and his fellow sea-

sweeper twice attempted to

cowardice and negligence

were endangering tha lives

Mr Lawton claims he and

men on board a mine-

drown an officer whose

three others decided to

push him overboard. Mr

the age of 17, in 1942.

tenant of HMS Rosario.

while minesweeping in tha

Adriatic. "I still have night-

time to tell the truth," he

ficer used to hide when

ed to act after shrapnel from an exploding mine killed a sailor. Mr Lawton

makes his confession on

pursuing the matter.

the BBC 2 series, The Call

of the Sea on Saturday. The MoD said it would not be

there were mines around.

He and three others decid-

mares today hut I felt it was

said. Mr Lawton said the of-

Lawton, who lives in Huli,

volunteered for the Navy at

He recalls the moment he tried to kill the first lieu-

responsible for staging a

mutiny in 1944.

of the crew.

### briefing

### **ECONOMY**

### Britain better off in EU, business leaders say

Most firms want Britain to remain in the European Union although one in four believes the economy would benefit from

although one in four believes the exhibity would be leaving, a new survey showed today.

More than two out of three businesses polled said the UK economy would benefit from staying in the EU.

The survey of 553 organisations by Reed Personnel Services showed more support for leaving the EU in the South-west, while firms in the Midlands were most in favour of staying in. Larger firms were more likely to arrate in favour of remaining in Europe. firms were more likely to argue in favour of remaining in Europe.

Labour's trade and industry spokeswoman Margaret Beckett

community recognises the need for Britain to play a constructive tole in Europe and recognises also the danger to prosperity and jobs if we were to leave the EU. It thus shows the dangers to which it is the proper to prosperity and jobs if we were to leave the EU. It thus shows the dangers to which Tory divisions on Europe expose Britain, risking 3.5 million jobs."
The survey also found that senior managers were keener on the staying in Europe than lower ranks, with only 17 per cent of them wanting the UK to leave the EU, compared to 24 per cent of

middle managers and 25 per cent of support staff. There were also differences between business sectors, with 76 per cent of manufacturing businesses thinking the UK should stay in and 19 per cent that it should leave, compared to 60 per cent of distribution and wholesale organisations believing the UK should stay and 31 per cent that it should get out. A quarter of service and retail husiness and 24 per cent of public sector organisations thought leaving the EU would be better for the UK, along with 17 per cent of charities.

### HEALTH

### Why breast is best

Children fed on mothers' milk have a ten-point IQ headstart over bottle-fed babies, according to a psychiatric survey today. Those who missed out are not only less

bright than they would have been, they are quieter, more withdrawn and make fewer friends at school, the research indicates. They also appear to be at higher risk of developing tchizophrenia in later life. Consultant psychiatrist Dr Rohin McCreadie, of the

Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries, who led the research as part of an investigation into the causes of schizophrenia, said: "Mothers' milk contains an essential constituent, missing from cows' milk, for proper brain development of babies. Breast-fed bahies are nearly ten IQ points hrighter than those raised on cows' milk.
"The fatty acid [docosahexa-

enoic acid, known as DHA] in mothers' milk is vital for proper development of the brain and to give it protection from schizophrenia. When all mothers breast-fed their babies, schizophrenia was virtually unknown in Britain. But with the advent of bottle feeding - early last century - the disease gained a foothold."

His survey, published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, shows that seven out of ten schizophrenia patients were not breast-fed.

### BUSINESS

### rewer tirms going bust

The number of business failures in Britain fell by nearly 10 per cent in the first three months of the year, providing further

evidence of the increasing strength of the economy.

During the first quarter, the total number of fadures, including companies, partnerships and sole traders, amounted to 10,329— 1.101 fewer than in the first three months of last year, according to business information company Dun & Bradstreet.

The fall was caused mainly by a sharp drop in the proportion of

larger companies going into liquidation, it said. The number of companies going into liquidation fell from 5,237 in the first quarter of last year to 4,517 in the first three months of this year, while the number of bankruptcies of smaller businesses fell by 6.1 per cent during the same period.
Senior analyst Philip Mellor said: "The latest figures are most

encouraging after an upturn in the business failure rate during the last quarter of last year. We had feared that an increase in pany liquidations might bring down a host of smaller firm bankruptcies in their wake. This has not happened yet, but with the business climate being so competitive, it remains to be seen if the decline in business failures continues throughout the year."

### CHILD CARE

### Mental scars for traffic victims

Children commonly suffer post-traumatic stress disorder after being inverted in a road traffic accident, a new study has found.
Researchers called urgently for health care staff to recognise
and treat the potential psychological consequences for children
and adolescents as well as ministering to their physical injuries.

Writing in the British Journal of Psychiatry the researchers looke at 57 injured children who had been brought into five Glasgow hospitals between April and Angust 1995. Four months on parents reported that nearly half the children suffered from persistent mood disturbances – largely tantrums and mood swings hut also sadness and withdrawal. Nearly half still suffered from mild, moderate or severe from post traumatic stress disorder, 17 per cent from traffic-related fears and more than a quarter still felt wary on the roads. Those who had been most distressed at the time of the accident were most likely to develop post-traumatic stress

The researchers said that it was important for hospital staff to recognise the danger of post-traumatic reaction and they said that where necessary specialist mental health edvice should be offered



**NEWSPAPERS** SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

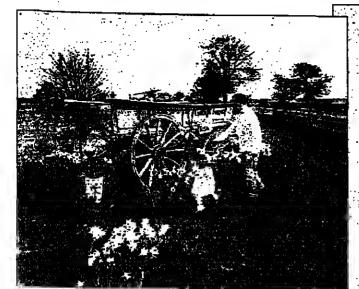
SWIFTCALL

# CALL THE STATES FOR ONLY 10P A MINUTE, ANYTIME

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# Freedom dawns again for a small corner of England



Arthur Hill lives in Rutland, He is proud to be a Rutlander. Indeed, in his 89 years he has only ever travelied as far from it as

Under a special feature on Mr Hill, one of the county's "truly grand old characters", the Rutland Times says he will greet inocpendence with a pride and patriotism only born Rut-

communities of cities across the rest of the country, Mr Hill's passion for his home - and his newspaper's passion for Mr

Hill - might seem somewhat curious. But as 1 April returns Rutland to county status, many of its citizens are bringing a similar patriotism for this tiny sec-

Twenty-three years ago the 1S-by-15 mile county was abolished and it became part of Leicestershire. Many Rutlanders continued to refer to it as a county, even using their old postcode. Their feelings were landers can truly feel". such that even an encyclopaedic reference to Rutland notes: "There is local indignation whenever it is suggested that Rutland should lose its separate

tor of the Midlands to the fore.

Now, after fierce lobbying by Rutland's council, it again becomes a county today - an event that will be commemorated with a huge display of fireworks, a ball, and no small reioicing among many of the county's inhabitants, not least traders. There is a commemorative magazine, poster, car sticker, polo shirt, first-day cov-

memorative Independent mortgage. Sylvia Darby, proprietor of the Lord Nelson's House Hotel in Oakham, says the change is not just symbolic. "We real-

it's very much Rutland for the Rutlanders - but the tradespeople particularly feel it may bring more business in."

Locals were hoping the Prince of Wales would attend the ceremony, as he rides with a local hunt, the Quorn, but she and her family would he at-tending a celebratory ball re-gardless. "We'll be eating off er, egg cup and even a com-Rutland commemorative plates, and af-terwards we get to take them home. Suitably washed, I might

The sense of satisfaction in

map. When we first came here local people had fought "tooth tourism was a hit of a dirty word and nail" for the boundary change, Mrs Darby said.

On its own: Rutland Water and its environs, one of the main features of the county, which is now free of the Leicestershire yoke

"They never changed their postcode, they would never allow the signs on entering to be taken down either, and they never accepted being part of Leicestershire."

But not everyone is happy about the change, County status, it appears, comes at a price, and many feel the area is simply too small to support itself. The county will have to "buy in" many services from nieghbouring counties, and, days before independence, many negotiations had not been completed,

including social services, highways and archive services. A council spokesman said that in some cases neighbouring counties wanted to tie Rutland to 10year contracts, or had withheld

contracts altogether. Jacqui Morrissey, a housewife from Market Overton, said the county was "simply not going to be able to afford its independence". Council tax was going up at an alarming rate, even with transitional relief, and many people believed services were going to go down. "We simply don't have enough industry. How are they going to pay for university grants?

They're already cutting back on education. Policing is already at a stretch and public transport is almost non-existent. Rutland is

just too small on its own." She believed that many people who had been pro-independence would change their minds when they discovered its true cost. "I take several old ladies to sewing classes every week and they're worried. Their pensions aren't going to cover it." Her daughter Caroline, 22, said Plymouth, where she was at university, lelt like a cosmopolitan paradise in comparison. If you were young in Rutland, there were organised

Photograph: Keith Dobney groups like the Venture Scouts. but that was it. "Thar's why

there's such a problem with un-der-age drinking. Mrs Morrissey, who would not be attending the fireworks. believed the decision to become independent again had been purely political".

It was pushed and pushed. We were always given the good

Rutlanders, she said, thought that by regaining their inde-pendence they would somehow get back the Rutland of 30 years ago. "They think they Il got the public services they used to



Colin Blackstock

Easter Monday is the busiest day of the year for the Deep Sea World aquarium in Fife. Scotland and this year it was also one of the saddest. The staff at the aquarium

have battled to save Mohy, a 40tt sperm whale from beaching itself for the past two weeks. bitt yesterday lost the war. Moby, who was first spotted in the Firth of Forth 13 days ago. died after becoming beached on mudflats at Airth in the estuary.

Rescuers had tried to redirect Moby eastwards, out at the estuary, but time and again the whale returned to swim inland. Then finally, at midday yesterday. Moby died one hour after becoming trapped in shallow water as the tide went out.

Alex Kilgour, a spokesman for Deep Sea World aquarium. which was co-ordinating the rescue attempts, said: "Moby died very quickly. We were dreading a long, drawn-out death that could have gone on fur six to 12 hours, but he died within an hour, which was a blessing in disguise.



Last hours: A boat circling the beached-up whale in the estuary

"We are all extremely sad at Deep Sea World. We tried our utmost as a group of human beings to help Moby, but at the end of the day it wasn't

enough."
Doctor Keith Todd, an expert from the aquarium who had spent the tast 12 days trying to help the whale, comforted Moby as he died. Rescuers had spent two weeks using boats and divers to try and coax Moby out of the estuary.

Wildlife experts said that Moby probably took a wrong turn on an annual migration

from the Arctic to the Azones and came down the east coast of Scotland instead of the west on his way to the Atlantic.

When Moby got into the Forth he tried to go west," said Mr Kilgour, "It seems his sonar kept telling him to go west but he couldn't, and he ended up becoming beached."

Those involved in the rescue attempts dismiss any ideas that the whale was on a suicide mission. Dr John Goold of the School of Ocean Sciences, University of Wates. Bangor, said: "I don't think he was trying to ods:" he said.

kill himself. If he was, he could have beached a lot sooner." The public support for Moby

and the attempt to save him astonished everyone involved. We were taken aback by the public support," said Mr Kilgour. "We didn't realise that it would create such an interest but it shows that the public want

to see humans helping animals.

The most impurtant thing we can do now is sit down and talk about what to do the next time this happens, and learn how we can improve our meth-

## Hunt for last BR train departing narrows down to choice of three

Simon Reeve

Even as the final British Rail passenger trains left their plat-forms last night. BR's infamous timetables - the bane of every traveller - were causing problems for their customers, After almost 50 years of public ownership, groups of excited enthusiasts were left wondering which of three trains really was

the last train departing.

The final BR passenger train to actually reach its destination should be the 9.50 overnight sleeper service from London Euston, which is due to arrive at 10.25 this morning in Fort Wittiam.

However, as any BR passenger knows, leaving one station is no guarantee of swift arrival at the next.

sleeper from Edinburgh to Euston via Glasgow, which was staking its claim as the very tast

RR train. Most of those wanting to celebrate the end of BR by travelling on the "final" trains plumped for two ScotRail expresses travelling in opposite directions between Glasgow and Edinburgh, which left just be-fore midnight last night, loaded with trainspotters.

Perhaps final celebrations should have waited until blearyeyed passengers disembark from the sleeper service. But both the Glasgow and Edinhurgh trains were due to arrive early this morning to the sound of music and popping chamnagne corks as yet another unloved public company with an

the private sector.

The confusion over the last train failed to affect celebrations at Waverley station in Edinburgh this morning. Passengers from Glasgow were met by John Bowden. 64, the only rail employee who started his working life before nationalisation.

The event sees the end of the 25th train company, the last to enter private ownership. It is unlikely that British Rail, one of the most ridiculed companies in the land, will be missed.

Free whisky was drunk on the ScotRail expresses as documents were prepared, handing the company over to National Express, a firm better known for ses and coaches. Despite a frantic 14 months,

during which the entire pas-

Then there was the 23.55 image problem steps aside for senger network has been sold off, the private sector may not retain control for long if Labour wins the general election, according to Keith Bill, national secretary of the pressure group Save Our Railways. He predicts the majority share of Railtrack and most of the 25 rail train franchises will be back in public ownership within seven years

the opposition takes power. "Both Labour and Liberal Democrats have reiterated in the last 48 hours that they will take back Railtrack even though Labour will make it clear that they cannot afford to do this in the first five years of a Labour government, "Mr Bill

"But bringing back Railtrack into the public sector remains Labour's long-term objective."



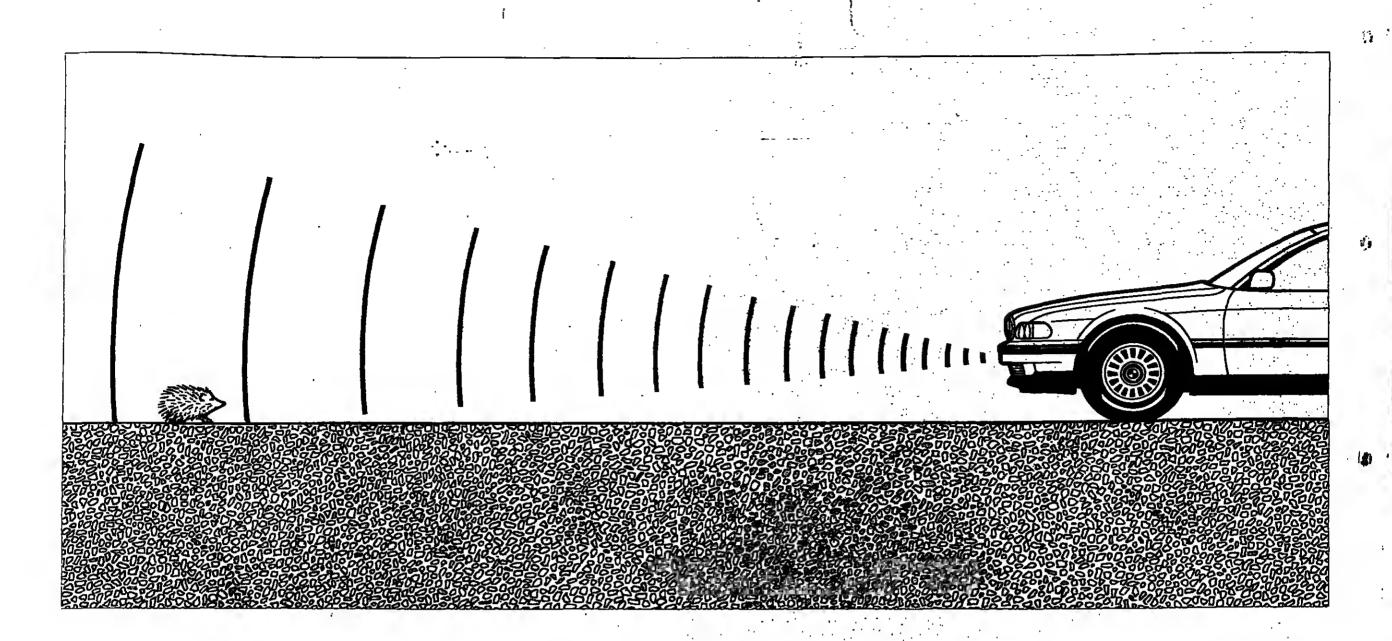
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The state of the s





# Hanratty case police want to track killer

Kim Sengupta

Detectives whose investigation cleared James Hanratty of the A6 murder are unhappy that a oew inquiry has not been launched to track down the

killer, say police sources. The Scotland Yard team, under Det Supt Roger Matthews, which concluded Hanratty had been unjustly executed also recommended that a review should be made of the evi-

dence against other suspects.
Not only has Michael
Howard the Home Secretary. unloaded the alleged miscar-riage of justice on to the new Criminal Cases Review Com-Criminal Cases Review Com-mission, but the Home office has given no indication whether a new inquiry would be held, de-spite receiving the Matthews re-port eight months ago. The CCRC begins to look at possible miscarriages of justice this week. But disterrings in the

Matthews inquiry have no idea what will happen to their call for

month re-investigation decided that Hanratty, a petty burglar, could not have mordered the research scientist Michael Greg-sten, 36, and raped and shot his 22-year-old mistress, -Valerie

Storrie, who was paralysed. After examining the evidence present at the time the team was of the opinioo that Hanratty should not have been charged. Instead, Mr Matthews's team and concluded the man who carned out the attack on 22 August 1961 at Deadman's Hill, Bcd-Breshire, was probably hired to break up the illicit liaison.

His report is believed to recommend that a new inquiry should in particular cramine ev-idence regarding Peter Alphon, a salesman who was the origi-

But the officers turned their attention from Alphon to Hanratty after a tip-off from William Nudds, ao informer and habitual liar. The prosecution of Hanraity, who was 25, concen-

a new investigation. The 18- trated on the theory that a lone gunman had carried out a random attack after finding the couple in their car in a comfield.

Hanratty was hanged in April 1962. Doubts about the convictioo played a hig part in MPs voting to abolish capital punishmen) in 1965.

Two years later Alphon confessed in Paris to the rape and murder, but later retracted, a pattern he was to repeat over the years. A man Alphon claimed had set up the attack to deter Greesteo from seeing Ms Storric was never interviewed by police. Yesterday a Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We were asked to prepare a report by the Home Office and we have presented them with it. We cannot discuss the content of the re-

port; it is strictly confidential."
A Home Office spokeswoman said: "The files have been sent to the Criminal Cases Review Commission ... We cannot comment on the cootent of the Matthews report."

# March highlights loyalist divisions

David McKittrick Ireland correspondent

The sharp divisions within Ulster loyalism were publicly encapsulated yesterday when the new marching seasoo's first disputed parade passed off without serious incident in south Belfast.

A small parade of the Apprentice Boys of Derry marched towards the Catholic section of the Ormeau road but then, as promised, veered away from a line of Royal Ulster Constabulary Land Rovers and were was Yellow bastards. Among taken on their way by coach.

Their conduct was applauded by police, who were relieved that the first poteotial flashpoint of the season had been successfully negotiated, but heckled by people accusing them of cowardice in the face of nationalist opposition.

Although only a small oumber of marchers and a few dissidents were involved, their commeots summed up the running debate taking place in loyalist circles. One tendency believes that the right to march should take precedence over all clse, while the other feels the avoidance of conflict should

have priority. Tommy Cheevers of the Apprentice Boys said they had taken their decision to give Northern Ireland a breathing space because the country could not afford a repeat of last year's

He said most of the protesters were members of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, adding: "There are always those in our society, unfortunately, who are just bigots and can't see anything. They only have small lives to live, but I have to say the majority of people realise the moves we're making here.

"We're not prepared to bring. confrootation on to our own streets. We have proved we are tolerant people who are pre-pared to compromise. We have taken all the tension out of the air - people do not want another situation like last July."

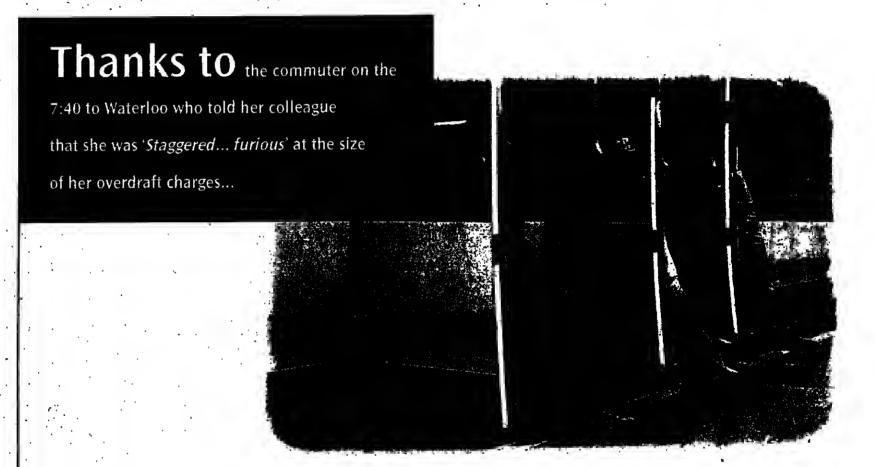
Among the more repeatable catcalls from loyalist protesters the dissenters was Pauline Gilmore, whose boyfriend was shot dead by the IRA 16 years ago. She and the others felt the marchers should have made some gesture before turning away: "People feel disgusted, they feel betrayed, they don't understand why there is no form of protest at all."

Meanwhile, debate continued on the significance of remarks by Labour's Mo Mowlam, who at the weekend suggested that in the event of an immediate IRA ceasefire Sinn Fein could eoter multi-party talks in Belfast.

by the summer. Sources close to Tony Blair, the Labour leader, insisted that there was no chance of Labour sanctioning any meeting with Sinn Fein. However, Ms ated speculation that Labour in government might show more.

flexibility than the Conservatives.

Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said he was worried by her remarks, while Martin McGuinness of Sinn-Fein said he regarded the comments as ink pic reserves the right not to open an account, Credit subject to status. Call 0800 180 180 for full written details. Midland variable interest rate for overdrafts up to £3000 is 1.05% per month (13.3% EAR).



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### DAILY POEM

Song to A.A.

by Emily Bronte This shall be thy bullaby

Rocking on the stormy sea, Though it roar in thunder wild Sleep - stilly sleep - my dark-haired child. When our shuddering boat was crossing

Eldemo lake so nidely tossing, Then 'twas first my nursling smiled, Sleep - softly sleep - my fairbrowed child.

Waves above thy cradle break, Fourty tears are on the cheek, Yet the ocean's self grows mild When it bears my slumbering child.

"Elderno" was a place in Gondal, the imaginary world created by the Bronte siblings in 1834 at the parsonage in Hawarth. The Everyman's Poetry selection of verse by Emily, Charlotte, Anne and Patrick Branwell Bronte is edited by Pamela Norris (Everyman/J-M Dent. £2). The identity of A.A. is unknown.

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Teachers in conference: Labour hit back at NUT militants and back traditional maths for the young

# Don't try to bully me, says Blunkett

Education Editor

Labour will not tolerate threats of bullying from teachers' unions or anyone else. David Blunkett, the Labour education spokesman, iold the profession's higgest union yesterday. Mr Blunkett won a standing

ovation from more than half his audience at the National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Harrogate, and silence from the rest, after a fighting speech in which he attacked union militants.

Delegates voted at the weekend to take on a Labour govemment over class size, grammar schools and league tables. And they agreed to strike if a Labour government failed to reduce

class sizes for all pupils. Mr Blunkett said: "We won't tolerate division or bullying or threats, not simply from those who attend union conferences but from anyone who has a vested interest in any part of our country. However important they think they are, they will not stand in the way of myself and my colleagues radically changing the education system,"

Outside the conference, Mr Blunkett said teachers should not strike over government policies whether on grammar

schools, testing or inspection.
"I don't think withdrawing your labour and leaving children without a teacher assists in lifting standards or raising the es-teem of teachers. As ever, withdrawal of labour should be a last resort."

He made it clear that he did not accept plans expected to be revealed in the Conservative manifesto today to ban teachers'

barely a murmur as be backed traditional teaching methods, attacked teacher militancy and argued that low standards were the result of low expectations as well as economic disadvantage.

He was warmly applauded when he said that Labour would abolish the Government's nursery voucher scheme within one school term and would accept that class size mattered.

Labour's pledge to reduce class sizes for 5- to 7-year-olds. he suggested, was the start of a process under which class sizes for older pupils might also be reduced. He said that they could trust him better than anyone to raise standards.

"I had to go to evening classes for six years to get A levels and a husiness qualification to get into university.

"I taught in the heart of the South Yorkshire coal field where youngsters were bright, able and capable but written off by the system far too easily.

When my own children went into an inner-city comprehensive with very low academic standards. I determined to liberate the children we represent from past dogmas and fights about the elite succeeding and the rest being written off." Doug McAvoy, the union's

general secretary, said they looked forward with optimism lo a Labour government but warned that his members would be prepared to take industrial action if the needs of children and their teachers were not being met. Gillian Shephard, the Secre-

BBC Radio 4's World At One, "If ... Labour were elected ... they would have to reap what they have sown over the years as far Mr Blunkett had been ex- as education is concerned. What pected to receive a rough ride, we heard at the NUT is the voice from the most militant dele- of the Labour Party."



A rough ride from militants that never came to pass: David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, addressing the NUT in Harrogate yesterday Photograph: John Houlihar/Guzelian

## turn on children's calculator culture

Judith Judd

Labour wants to ban calculators for children under the age of eight, David Blunkett said yesterday.

He said a new numeracy taskforce to be set up under Professor David Reynolds, of Newcastle upon Tyne Univertary of State for Education, told sity, would make a final

> In comments which echoed many concerns usually voiced by

tal arithmetic is a key skill which children must learn. They must also understand the basis on which the calculations are being made.

"Calculators should not be introduced until later in primary schools than is often the case at present. So that once the foundations of mental arithmetic decision about the right age for are already in place, they can children to be introduced to master how to use them more effectively.

"Numerate pupils must know how to use calculators sensibly

traditionalists, he said: "Men- and must be able to make a de- Three-quarters would be excision about when to use a calculator. We must ensure that no child is totally reliant on a calculator.

Children needed to learn their tables by heart and how to add and subtract quickly without putting pen to paper, he Most countries introduce cal-

culators into schools at a later

pected to achieve the expected standard within five years and 90 per cent by the year 2007. The present figure is 55

In the Third International Maths and Science Study puhlished last year, British 13-yearolds did worse in maths than pupils from about half the 40

countries which took part. Mr Blunkett said: "Whilst we tailor them to fit our culture, our question and answer sessions system and what parents, teachers and pupils find works best. The taskforce will be reviewing all the research evidence.

We must learn from Taiwan and the Pacific Rim countries and their success in teaching children the habits of mind which can lead to future educational success."

He had been impressed, he stage than Britain. Mr Blunkett said: "Whilst we Borough of Barking and Dahe intended to set-national

with the teacher.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education said: "Labour can't add up. David Blunkett has said he intends to set up a numeracy taskforce so he has obviously failed to count the 25 literacy and numeracy centres we have established throughout the country to spread best practice."

The Prime Minister had said would introduce new numera- sale from abroad, we must cher-cy targets for 11-year-olds. ry pick the best methods and class maths teaching involving curriculum, she added.

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# De Gruchy attacks rival leader over direct action

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

A teaching union leader yesterday condemned the president of a rival union who withdrew her daughter from school during national tests as a "disgrace

to her profession".

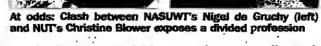
Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers, launched his attack after Christine Blower, of the National Union of Teachers, admitted let-ting her 11-year-old daughter stay at home for three days last year to stop her sitting the compulsory tests in English, maths and science.

Addressing the NUT con-ference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, at the weekend, Ms Blower told delegates that they, too, should take direct action to

oppose national testing, school inspection and large classes.

The NUT strongly opposed the introduction of the tests for 7-, 11- and 14-year-olds. Mr De Gruchy, speaking before the opening of the NASUWT's an-





mouth, Dorset, accused Ms every time parents disagreed, Blower of disgracing the pro-fession "by organising her own child to truant". He said: "You can't have your cake and eat it. You can't argue for a state eduestion system and then in effect argue that every parent has the right to do whatever they like."

they retained the right to withdraw their child, there would be

Ms Blower, 45, of Hammersmith, west London, who teaches children with behavioural difficulties, pledged to remove her second daughter, Eleanor, 6, from school during the key gerous precedent" he added. "If stage-one tests in maths and

next year. She told the conference: "As a parent and teacher I will continue to support campaigns to rid education of blanket testing on our children." The clash exposes divisions hetween the main teaching

unions which appear to be widening in the run-up to the election. While NUT delegates voted to ballot for strike action if a new government failed to cut class sizes to a maximum of 30, Mr De Gruchy went out of his way to stress that the NASUWT conference would "certainly not be threatening an in-coming government ... with strike action in the next month or two if problems which bave built up over the last couple of decades are not immediately resolved".

. However, he spoke of his "alarm" at leaked Tory manifesto proposals to han strikes by teaching unions, describing the move as "naked fascism". He said: "If that is what the Conservative Party is proposing then it is high time for the nation to wake up. It might he morrow it could be the press-

## NAS-UWT puts class discipline at the top of conference agenda

The teaching union which waged bitter hattles over discipline at the Ridings and three other schools today places class-room disruption at the top of its agenda at the start of its annu-

The National Association of Schoolmasters-Union of Women Teachers, which warns that despite four victories it has still to win the discipline war, will demand more support for teachers in dealing with disruptive or violent people,

Delegates at the union's annual conference in Bournemouth will today be recommended to accept a report rejecting the principle of keeping as many children as possible in mainstream schools.

The union's general secretary. Nigel de Gruchy, said last with badly behaved pupils.

dren in ordinary schools were so disruptive that they should be

transferred to special schools.
The NAS-UWT highlighted
its case for a crackdown on
classroom discipline last year during disputes in schools in-cluding the Ridings, in Halifax, Calderdale and Manton junior school, in Worksop.
Union members at the Rid-

ings threatened to strike over 60 problem children, while at Manton they called for the exclusioo of one pupil. Addressing delegates at the opening of the conference, the incoming president, Barrie Ferguson, urged the Government to be tough on the causes of disruption. It should re-examine the role of local authorities, the appeals panels and governors in the whole process of dealing

the normal strategies for keeping order in the classroom had gradually come to mean "nought" to an increasing hand of youngsters, Mr Ferguson said. "Now, teachers with a su-

perb teaching style, good class-room organisation, the right body language and good voice modulation are finding that the word 'no' is a basis for negotiation with an ever-increasing number of pupils." Protests by NAS-UWT members had proved to be "sensible trade

union actions", he said. Another key theme of the conference will be the workloads being shouldered by class-room teachers. Mr De Gruchy has declared his union will give a new government a year in which to take action to reduce the bureaucracy which is weighing down teachers.

are time-consuming preparations for inspections by the schools watchdog. Ofsted, and the highly detailed recording and assessment of children's

progress demanded under the National Curriculum.

If nothing is done, Mr De Gruchy warns of ballors for industrial actions, including beyond of processing the control of proc

boycott of excess paperwork.
Mr Ferguson said teachers were so enslaved by hureauctacy that they had no time for afterschool sports clubs and other

activities. Delegates will vote today on a motion condemning "cacessive workload and stress pro-

duced by Ofsted inspections".

The NUT conference at the weekend demanded the sacking of the chief inspector of schools. Chris Woodhead, and the abolition of Ofsted.

## election countdown

# I'll accentuate the positive, promises Blair

the young

As positive messages go, you could argue that "Britain Deserves Better is a little on the negative side.

But there was nothing negative about its delivery yesterday at the start of a Labour poster campaign aimed at dragging the election contest out of the mire of sleaze.

First, there was the location: 18th-century Chilston Park Country House Hotel in Lenharn, Kent where rooms cost up which the boxer Nigel Benn to £210 a night. It was once would have heen proud.

owned by Thomas Best, a for-mer Tory MP, but is more likely to go down in history as the place where Paula Yates and Michael Hutchence, the rock star, got together behind Bob

Next, there was the presen-tation. More than 200 local party supporters and their children were brought together on the hotel's lawns, cheering wildly as Tony Blair arrived to the Pop song "Things Can Only Get Better". It was an entrance of

deputy, John Prescott, bursting with enthusiasm, said Labour wanted to raise the tone of the campaign, although Mr Prescott couldn't resist cracking a joke about John Major's inability to bring errant Tories to fieel.

"He's gone off to the Happy Eater today," said Mr Prescott. "That's the only place where anyone will take his orders." Mr Blair said the posters represented the beginning of a

Finally, there were the per-formances. Mr Blair and his he said "Il is an attempt to put some life and energy into a campaign mired in Tory slenze. Slenze may hurt the Tories but it hurts politics too."

Surrounded by children wearing T-shirts bearing the campaign slogan, he spelled out the areas where he believed the country deserved better: the economy; the health service: education: employment; old age and safer streets. "I have issued instructions

that all our new posters between

now and I May, election day,

we can make Britain bener.

"They won't be running our opponents ragged. They won't be decrying them. They won't be engaged in personality politics. They will be saying what we will be doing to make out country better. It is time to rise above the sleaze that has characterised this election campaign so far."

The party faithful enjoyed it, although one or two felt a little uncomfortable with the location and their party's slicker 1945 onwards," she said. "I

"They will tell the country how tle nervous wondering what some old Labour supporters would make of all this," said David Nicholis, 41, a company director from West Malling.

> "On the whole, I think it's good that the party doesn't feel embarrassed by holding functions at this kind of place any

But his mother, Helen, 67, wondered what her late father would have made of it all. "He was a union man from

would have reacted. I hope he would have approved."

Mr Blair takes his campaign on the road today with the unveiling of five campaign battle buses leased at a cost of

They will take him and a huge entourage of journalists to more han 60 towns and cities across Britain. The Labour leader's bus is equipped with state of the art communications, a kitchen and

must be positive," he said, image, "It makes me feel a lit- wish he could have been here tractable platform on which he to see this. I'm not sure how he will deliver speeches and hold would have reacted. I hope he question-and-answer sessions with the public. The whole operation has been financed by charging journalists £7,500 each for a ricke).

Aides say Mr Blair, who they consider to be their most potent weapon against Mr Major, will concentrate speeches on what he ealls his "Three R's": Re-minding people of the Tories record: Reassuring people that New labour is for real; and explaining the Rewards that voting Labour will bring.

Swampy

scales

political

heights

# Ashdown warned over poor result

Chief Political Correspondent

Paddy Ashdown's first appearance in a soft focus society magazine could be subtilled "hello...and goodbye" after a

helping hand to the exit by Sir

Cyril Smith, the former Liberal MP for Rochdale. Sir Cyril yesterday predicted that Mr Ashdown would step down from the Liberal Democrat leadership if his party failed to make a hreakthrough at the

general election. A former Liberal Democrat chief whip, Sir Cyril also warned Mr Ashdown against angling for a seat in a Labour Cabinet, "I don't think there would be any attempt to throw him out hut I think he will resign," Mr Smith said on BBC radio.

"I have no quarrel with any-thing that Paddy has done except his unwillingness to sign the bottom line that he would not sit in a Labour Cahinet.

"If that possibility ever arose, then some of us would be taking action to stop it," he said.

struggling to stay in double fig-ures in the opinion polls, Mr Smith's prediction of a bleak future for Mr Ashdown is being taken seriously at Westminster. Some Tory ministers are betting that the Liberal Democrats do not increase their number of

seats on 1 May. It came as the Ashdowns looked certain to beat the Blairs and the Majors into Hello! mag-azine. The Liberal Democrat leader, who is soon to become a grandfather, has been invited to join the ranks of Fergie, Gazza and Madonna, who have

all been in the glitzy publication.

An aide to Mr Ashdown confirmed that the magazine has approached his office asking to do an "at home" piece with his 31-year-old expectant daughter Kate and her French husband

The proposed location of the Hello! spread has yet to be determined - whether it be the Ashdown's rose-clad cottage in the Somerset village of Nor-

They have written to Kate. so it is up to her what she wants to do," said a party source.

Mr Ashdown, 56, is planning to visit his daughter in Burgundy in the last days of the election campaign to see her new baby. which is due in about three

The eldest of the three main party leaders, Mr Ashdown has since denied rumours that he is embarrassed by the idea of becoming a grandfather as it might conflict with his "Action

The former Royal Marine has again been enjoying his out-doors profile on the campaign trail in the past week - driving a forklift truck and climbing on to a fire engine.

The party source said: "The baby is not going to be born until quite close to polling day. After that, Kate will have a think about it. They have written to her via the office, but it is her decision. All she's worried about ton suh Hamdon, or the small at the moment is the baby."

The prospect of Swampy the prospective parliamentary can-

Simon Reeve

didnte arose yesterday as the anti-roads campaigner kunched his own 10-point political manifesto at the site of the proposed second runway for Manchester airport.

In an opening stunt unlikely to be repeated by other aspiring politicians. Swampy emerged from a hole 50ft up a cliff and abseiled to the ground to explain his philosophy to reporters, photographers and supporters.

Swampy, whose real name is Daniel Hooper, then announced that he would be calling his party Never Mind The Ballots, and would be standing at the general election against Graham Stringer, the Labour party candidate for Manchester Blackley and chairman of Man-

chester Airport plc. Wearing a green rosette and a tunnelling lamp attached to his head, and standing at the en-trance to a tunnel under the runway site. Swampy said he wanted to put the environment first: "My message to Mr Stringer is stand down, you don't stand a chance. I aim to he prime minister one day."

It was a dramatic intervention by Britain's most famous ecowarrior. "Nobody should underestimate the level of support he has, particularly among the young," one of his followers said tunneners "Vote for Swampy - he's the man for the joh.

The protesters have already managed to delay by two weeks a High Court action to remove them from the site. Buoyed by success. Swampy now says he wants to pul up candidates

across the country. His 'Don't Fly, Don't Drive' manifesto includes policies to stop internal flights, introduce targets for traffic reduction, stop airport expansion, tax park-

ing and increase rail freight. Although the date of the announcement is significant, according to Andrew Wood, a spokesman for the protesters, nomination papers have been obtained and could be submitted if money was found to put

"What I would like to appeal fur is help with the £500 deposit to enable me to run as parlia mentary candidate and to any fat-walleted sympathiser best in my election campaign." Swampy said.

## Big Mac generation opts for conservative approach

The political temperature may have been raised several degrees by the latest sleaze scandals hul many young people feel dis-tinctly cool about the prospect of voting for anyone, according to a selected group of first-time

A number of the Independent group, members of the socalled Big Mac Generation, born when the ubiquitous hamburger had just appeared on British high streets, will not bother to support any party at all, reflecting their indifference to the political process.

University student Robert Bishop, 19, who like all the sample of young voters lives in the marginal seat of Redditch, says he has made up his mind to abstain. "They [the parties] are just different shades of grey. I think a lot of young people feel this way.

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A company to the first

Andrew Davies, 19, a sixthformer at Arrow Vale school in Redditch, said he would still be reading newspapers and watching the election coverage on television, but felt "resigned" to

not voting.
"It seems to me the parties are more interested in sniping at each other than putting anything positive forward.

First-time voters are unimpressed by the election

campaign, writes Michael Streeter "I think the sleaze issue is go-

ing to drag on, and that does not make any of them look good." Another college student, Richard Watson, 19, admitted he was interested in the way the media was covering the election, especially the drift of newspapers away from the Conservative Party. But he said he, too, would "probably" not vote de-spite listening to many of the ar-

guments." Ian Wright, 19, a floor manager at McDonald's, says he is . undecided and has has found the campaign so far "boring".

"I think most people I know has found it like that - nothing has caught the imagination. I'm looking feaward to seeing a head-to-head debate, which may help me decide. Hopeful-ly they will not be able to dodge

the questions."
When first interviewed by The Independent last year Alice Melvin, 21, who works in a bet-

visit out web pite at http://www.hp.com or contact year local EP "Salph including VAT at partialpating stockiets.

ing Green, but has now drifted towards the Conservatives. "I just feel that things in the economy are going okay, and will a change under Labour do an good for us? In the end, I'm not sine lil vote at all ...

Among those who have decided to vote there is more comfort for John Major than Tony Blair, suggesting that stongside a sense of general dis-illusionine of with conventional politics, much of the younger generation has a largely conscryative approach to society. Rachel Putt, 18, who is at North East Worcester College, Redditch, who had previously been indecided, had now opted to vote for the Tories.

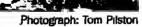
She said her mind had been made up by Labour's talk of ending the universality of child benefit. "I do not agree with that," she said. "I know that the Conservatives said last time, that they would not put up taxtantacy would not put up tar-ees and they did but I think I librar will do the same.

The Halmshaw, 18, another punits, fairly definite he will would bisservative but will watch

punit is "fairly definite" he will work Shiser ative but will watch some of the televised debates. "I will vote but I'm not terribly excited by the campaign."



Down to earth: Swampy launching his manifesto at Manchester airport yesterday





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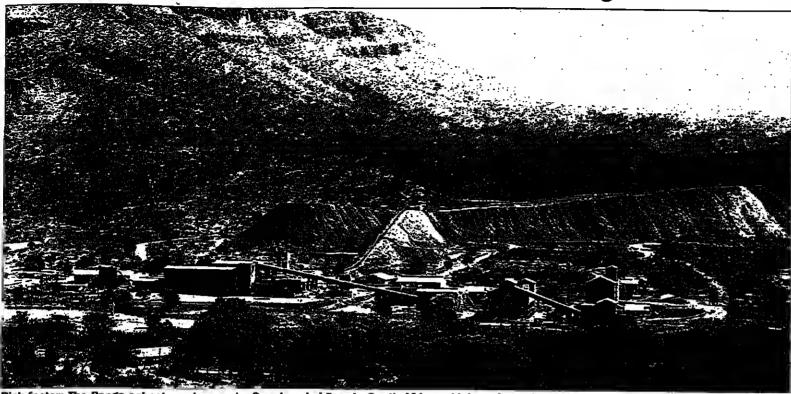
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# South African factory staff sue British firms



Risk factor: The Penge asbestos mine run by Cape'e subsidiary in South Africa, which workers claim failed to protect them from lethal fibres

Black workers are claiming damages for death and injury from industrial poisoning, reports lan Burrell

Two dozen black workers from southern Africa are set to give evidence in London against British companies which they say

and mercury.
Two workers have died from ercury poisoning and hundreds from asbestos-related diseases after working et plants set up by British firms. In three sep-arate legal actions, the companies are accused of allowing their subsidiaries to flout safety stan-dards which would have been re-quired in the United Kingdom.

A claim for damages will be served this week on Cape plc, of Middlesex, by solicitors acting for workers at asbestos mines run by the company's sub-sidiary in South Africa. Employees from the Penge mine in north-east Transvaal will produce evidence that childreo under 12 were made to trample asbestos and pack it into bags while hosses with whips watched over them.

The workers, who were paid fil e week in the immediate post-war years, later died or be-came seriously ill from asbestos-related diseases. They allege that Cape was fully aware of the dangers of the material from 1931 when Britain's Asbestos Regulations were introduced to reduce exposure to potentially

In South Africa, it is alleged the company cootinued to ex-pose its subsidiary company's black workforce to fibre levels at least 35 times as high as British limits. Asbestos-related cancer takes between 15 and 50

years to appear and victims are still being identified. As part of the same action, two Afrikaner families living near an asbestos mill at Prieska in the north-west Cape, are also seeking damages from Cape plc. Studies have shown that 14 per cent of deaths in the town are from mesothelioma, a form of

cancer only caused by asbestos. Cape said that it pulled out of South Africa in 1979 and its present business had nothing to do with asbestos. The company's lawyers are preparing a

response to the action. Next October, 20 black South African workers and relatives of dead employees are set to fly to London to give evidence against Thor Chemicals Holdings Ltd, of Margate, Kent, which they accuse of exposing them to po-tentially lethal doses of mercury. The workers, who are Zulu-speaking, claim that they were given no safety training and were allowed to eat food on the floor of the plant in Cato Ridge, Natal. In 1992, two workers died from mercury poisoning. Ac-tions against Thor were started by their families and 18 other workers, two more of whom have since died.

Thor's lawyers have fought to stop the cases being heard in Britain but the company declined to speak about the case. delia delia

A separate case brought against RTZ, the London-based multinational, by a former worker at the company's Namibian uranium mine, will go before the House of Lords this month, when a decision will be made on whether it should be heard in Britain. Edward Connelly, now of Glasgow, alleges that the company breached safety standards in exposing him to uranium dust. He has throat cancer and can no longer work. RTZ which strongly denies responsibility, believes the case should

be heard in Nemibia. Richard Meeran, of the London solicitors Leigh Day, said: "These British companies are inevitably responsible for the design of technology and systems of work and have the power and duty to ensure that people are

# 'I was given no warning by anyone'

All day long they stepped. Small report the South African Coun-hlack children, covered from cil for Scientific and Industrial hlack children, covered from head to foot in large shipping bags, trampling down deadly as-bestos for their British bosses. As the fluffy amosite asbestos cascaded on to their heads, e supervisor kept them marching with the crack of his whip.

Watching the children, some of whom were under 12 years ernment medical official, Dr Gerrit Schepers, who recorded what he saw: "I helieve these children to bave had the ultimate of asbestos dust exposure. X-ray revealed several to have radiologic asbestos [asbestosis] before the age of 12."

Writing in 1949, Dr Schepers was a visitor to the Penge asbestos mine, which British entrepreneurs set up in north-east Transvaal after the discovery of amosite outcrops in 1907. The price of extracting the mineral is still being paid in death and injury, 90 years later.
This week a claim for dam-

ages is being made by three former black workers of the Penge mining company (Egnep) against its British parent, Cape plc. All three have asbestosis and claim that Cape ignored British safety standards and exposed the black South African workforce at Penge to deadly levels of suffocating fibres.

Matlaweng Mohlala, now 58, experienced similar conditions to

those described by Dr Schepers. He was employed at 12 and spent 14 years packing asbestos fibre into sacks with his bare hands. He said his employers gave him no warning about the dangers. None at all by anybody," he'

said. "No gloves, boots or any protective clothing was supplied. i was X-rayed on engagement and discharge at Penge but not told anything was wrong." Mr Mohiala now has a permanent burning in his chest, struggles to breathe and cannot

work. Yet back in Britain, the

known for more than a gener-Graphs produced by Cape itels in the Penge factory were 12 to 35 times higher than permit-ted levels in Britain. In 1979 the mine was finally closed, but the problems remain. Medical researchers found that 80 per cent of black Penge miners who died between 1959 and 1964 had as-

bestosis. Their average age of the men was 43. Cape's operations have also incurred the wrath of rural Afrikaners living close to its plants. While Matlaweng Mohplants. While Manaweng Mon-lala was packing brown asbestos by hand in Penge, Matthys Nel was a teenager, breathing in blue asbestos fibres in Prieska in

the north-west Cape. Researchers from the National Centre for Occupation-al Health found that 14 per cent of deaths in the town were from mesothelioma, a cancer caused by asbestos. Mr Nel died from inesotheliome in 1995 even though be never worked at the Prieska mill, which was closed down in 1964.

His brother and mother also died from the disease.

Research said that "an alarmingly high number of cases with mesothelioma have been discovered among people who live or who have lived in the oorthwestern Cape area and there is evideoce to suggest that this conditioo is associated with an exposure to asbestos dust

The Nel family is claiming damages from Cape, along with Rachel Luhhe. 57, who is still alive but bas mesothelioma.

Because the South African mining industry has few white workers it has had less union representation than other industries - and worse safety standards. It was oot until 1954 tbat South African workers were given any regulatory protection against asbestos and

### Mercury staff 'were poisoned'

in 1987 Thor closed its mercury plant in Margate, Kent. There had been repeated inquiries by the Health and Safety Executive into the high levels of mercury being absorbed by workers. The chemicals company no longar makes mer-

cury-based products. In Cato Ridge, Natal, however, the company's subsidiary Thor Chemicals SA expanded its mercury reprocessing opera-tion, using technology developed in Britain.

Workers from South Africa who will seek damages in the High Court in London next October allega that they were not warned of the potential dangers of their job. In statements, they say that when the mercury lev-els in their urine reached dangerous levels they were told to "have a few beers" by the man-

In 1992 workers say they realised something was seriously wrong. They began to halluchate and show other symptoms of mercury poisoning. Peter Cele, 21, died after six months in hospital. Englebert Ngcobe, 54, died after three years. Both their families are suing Thor. The company is also being sued by 16 other work-ers and the relatives of two others who have since died.

fibre limits were not brought into line with Britain until 1976. But Richard Meeran, a solicitor with Leigh Day, of London. who are representing the plain-tiffs, said: The British companies cannot hide behind the fact that they had no regulations in South Africa. That does not give them a licence to totally dis

regard hazardous dust levels."
Michael Pitt-Payne, Cape pic's company secretary, said Cape had pulled out of South Africa io 1979 end no longer used asbestos in its products. "We sold the companies that were doing the mining in South Africa in 1979 and as such we have got very few people here who had anything to do with that business at the time." He said the action was in the hands of the company's lawyers and he did not wish to comment further.



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Israelis

defiant

as peace

crumbles

bencfit, a government spokes—
man, David Bar-Illan, told The
with leaders of the Arab world.

Arab world. From the economic point of view, it wouldn't cy of destroying the mutual

Jews and Arabs - a public relations line which has singular-

ly failed to convince world

opinion since the Cabinet took

Israel, Mr Netanyahu insist-

ed, wanted to achieve peace, but

that had to mean an end to threats and violence. We're not

going to redivide Jerusalem on

that basis, and we're certainly

not going to accept a concept

of peace that is based on con-

tinual threat and blackmail."

The Labour opposition took

a less complacent view of the Cairo offensive. Ehud Barak, the frontrumner to succeed Shi-

mon Peres as party leader, called oo Mr Netanyahu to

stop the dangerous escalation

"It is very disturbing," Mr Barak said, "the way we are iso-

confidence so intricately nur-

tured by the late Yitzhak Rabin

Middle East peace envoy, Den-

nis Ross, left empty-handed

last week, but there are reports

that the Secretary of State,

Madeleine Albright, is planning

to bring a new compromise

The Clinton administration's

and by Shimon Peres."

its decision a month ago.



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ma, which is responsible for US 100ps in Latin America. As Supreme Commander, Europe (Saceur), he will take over from Gen George Joulwan, who is retiring. The post entails command of all Allied Nato lorces and US troops based in

Mary Dejevsky

A seasoned general who served

in Vietnam, speaks Russian

and helped negotiate the Day-

ton accords on Bosnia is to be

named the new commander of

Nato forces in Europe, the

Pentagon confirmed yesterday. General Wesley Clark, 52, is

currently head of the US south-

Europe and has always been soldier and a statesman, to deal filled by an American. The choice of the new com-

mander has assumed particular Gen Clark fits the bill". importance because of the accumulation of major political is- who was decorated in Vietsues facing the alliance. They nam, the geoeral conforms to include the planned withdraw al of Nato troops from Bosnia
next year, differences with Ruscommands with more political next year, differences with Russia over the eastward expansion and training posts. He bas of Nato and France's continued served with Nato in Europe beof Nato and France's continued insistence that a European be fore, as senior military assistant appointed to head the southern to General Alexander Haig.

ern command, based in Pana-European command. highly developed sense of pol-motion, Gen Clark is a native ities and diplomacy. An unnamed Pentagon official was quoted as saying that the job requires somebody to be both a temporaries.

not only with military officials but the leaders of governments.

A graduate of West Point the classic pattern of US army

Like President Bill Clinton, Gen Clark is said to have a to whom he owes his latest proof Arkansas and studied at Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, although the two were oot con-



Women chanting anti-israeli slogans in Gaza yesterday with pictures of their imprisoned sons. However, the Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu (left), with Major-Genral Zeev Livne, is unlikely to yield to their demands Photograph: AP/AFP

may sound like familiar rhetoric, but it is a further symbol of the ever-quickening decay of the American-Israeli "peace process". No one could have imagined, even a year ago, that Arab foreign ministers would be voting to return to the Middle East cold war - and Washington's continuing refusal to understand the depth of betrayal now felt by Arab kings and dictators will only allow the crisis in the region to de-

teriorate at a faster rate. . Every day brings a further crack in the crumbling edifice of the "peace process" in which the world was once asked to believe and to invest millions of dollars. Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, insisted that the Arab League's decision was intended to persuade Israeli public opinion to make Mr Netanyahu reconsider his decision to build a new Jewish settlement on occupied land; in truth, only America can do that - and two US vetoes of UN Security Council resolutions

coodemning the settlement

prove this is a vain hope. formula on her first official . What, in any case, is a cold visit to the region. That visit promises to be peace with the Arabs worth to more and more difficult, as three!? In Egypt, for example, pending construction on the each day passes. The Arab ElAl cannot even fly into Cairo League's recommendation to with its name on aircraft. Tourwas determined to continue freeze Arab-Israeli relations ism between Israel and Egypt

dan. King Hussein's horror at the murder by a Jordanian soldier of seven Israeli schoolchildren has unt been matched by his people. The Jordanian Bar Association has been overwhelmed with lawyers offering to defeod the soldier responsible for the slaughter. The king has since replaced his Prime Minister with the man who

signed the peace treaty with Israel, further isolating himself from the Palestinian population.

The Arab League's recommendation to break off multilateral talks with Israel on water, economic cooperation, refugees, the environment and disarmament further destroys one of the dwindling American hopes of a continued "peace

process". The original "land-for peace" deal promised the Arabs before the 1991 Madrid summit in a series of letters from then Secretary of State James Bak-er - which the European Union wholeheartedly supported -has effectively been torn up. Very dark days, therefore, ap-

## significant shorts

### Indian PM given deadline to prove majority

The Indian Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda, was given until 11 April to prove his majority in parliament, a oear-impossible task after his government lost the support of its key ally, the Congress Party, President Shankar Dayal Sharma's instruction to Mr Deve Gowda to seek a vote of confidence by 11 April closed the government's option to call snap polis, forcing him either to resign or seek a split in the fractions Congress Party to gain a majority. Reuters - New Delhi

### Italy haunted by ship tragedy

Italy searched for more victims of an Albanian shipwreck on Monday as politicians, worried about the reception of an imminent Italian-led mission to the state, argued over the tragedy. Grieving survivors, who lost husbands, wives and young children in the disaster on Friday night, demanded answers from Rome, Tirana says around 80 people died in the incident. Reuters - Rome

### Go-ahead for Belarus deal

President Boris Yeltsin approved draft documents aimed at promoting further integration between Russia and neighbouring Belarus. While the agreement seeks to bring the countries closer, it will not create a fully-fledged confederation and neither country will exercise control over the other, Russian officials stressed. . AP-Moscow

### Briton jailed for murdering wife

A Briton living in Cyprus was jailed for 15 years for strangling his Cypriot wife and hurling her budy out of an apartment window last year, David Parris, 34, had pleaded not guilty to charges of manslaughter in the death of his wife, Avgoustina, who was 34 when she died in February 1996. Reuters - Nicosia in February 1996.

### Grenade victims mourned

Cambodians mourned the victims of a grenade attack on an opposition protest that killed 14 people; the Interior Ministry said it was still unclear who was responsible. The attack outside the National Assembly was the worst political violence to hit Cambodia's democracy since the coalition government came to power after UN-organised elections in 1993. Reuters - Phnom Penh

## building in Jerusalem for both and reimpose a trade boycott has virtually collapsed. In Jor-Le Pen sounds call for Sixth Republic

John Lichfield

Robert Fisk

Israel's beleaguered right-wing

government ducked yesterday

and let the waves of Arab

League indignation wash over

its bruised and battered head,

Officials dismissed the threat

to freeze normalisation of re-

lations under the peace process

as annther stage in a mounting

propaganda campaign against the decision to build 6.500 Jew-

ish homes on Har Homa in

They were disturbed by it, but

not broken. At worst, Israel

would lose diplomatically. "We

Independent, "because we want

to normalise relations with the

Arab world. From the eco-

make any substantial differ-

jamin Netanyahu, denounced

the Arab foreign ministers' res-

olution as "a step backward

from peace". He predicted that

any attempt to revive the eco-

nomic boycott of Israel would

fail. "We're a strong country with a strong economy," he said. "It

didn't work before. It won't

He rejected any idea of sus-

Har Homa site. His government

The Prime Mioister, Ben-

Arab East Jerusalem.

The Front National leader, Jean-Marie le Pen, yesterday called for abolition of the Fifth Republic created by de Gaulle and its replacement by a Sixth Republic which would defend French "national ideotity" as the standard-bearer for oationalist movements throughout the

In his closing speech to the 10th FN congress in Stras-bourg, he threateoed to counter-attack against allegations that he and his party are fascist, racist and anti-Semitic. This campaign of vilification was a strategy by the "corrupt" establishment parties, and the professional anti-racism lobby to undermine the only party ca-pable of providing France with

hope of a glorious future.

The speech, touted as the opening broadside in the FN

impose a global economy and developments for Mr Le Pen culture; and efforts to traduce his party as a prelude, be claimed, to a legal ban.

The chief novelty was Mr Le Pen's attempt to take on the . mantie of de Ganile and call for complete renewal of all political They appear in court tomorrow, institutions. De Gaulle, who undermining gave up Algeria, remains a Mr Le Pen's attempt to porvillain to many on the ultra-right. But Mr Le Pen claimed him as a forerunner of his self-proclaimed mission and "historic duty" to rescue anti-FN France from immobility and urday.

A few years after being regarded as a pariah and failure, de Gaulle founded the Fifth Republic in 1958, Mr Le Pen said.
This is a historic model that

for constitutional change, with-out giving many details, this was the first time Mr Le Pen had dielections next year, contained most of the standard Le Pen themes the decadence of the estimations.

The ren nad displayed a prent to block Mr Mégret's rise rectly appealed for a completely new beginning for political institutions.

The ren nad displayed a prent to block Mr Mégret's rise rectly appealed for a completely new beginning for political institutions.

US names new chief of

Nato's forces in Europe

But there were two sobering yesterday. Four FN members were arrested after roughing up two young men in a botel carpark. Three of the Frontistses, security guards at the congress, had claimed to be policemen.

tray his party as a victim, not a cause, of political violence, after the destructive behaviour of a minority of members of an anti-FN demonstration on Sat-

Secondly, the details of the voting for the FN central com-mittee showed an embarrassing rejection by Front members of This is a historic model that many should ponder... Vive the Sixth Republic!"

This is a historic model that rise of his ambitious, de facto Number Two, Bruno Mésixth Republic! Mr Le Pen's efforts to curb the Although the FN has called the first time. One of his prin-

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is should be returned as soon as possible. es an lawour, your application form for count wal be sent out in May and the land the la

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# Springtime thaw softens hard edge of the lethal season

ful winter, and we will all be glad to see it end. Moscow has been seized by an unsettling climatic fever, a cycle of freezing and melting. A month ago it seemed to be spring, but then we were huried anew beneath a carpet of snow. Yesterday, after a weekend in which the heavens dumped four more inches on us,

another thaw hegan. Russians believe wildly oscillating temperatures are bad for the health because they cause flu, colds, and other nasty hugs to breed, although these seem to flourish no matter what the barometer says. My complaint is of a different kind: for

ond-hand cross-country skis would be bounding up the stair-have been sitting in the corner case on our new, lean, skiing finally to get fit.

It was going to be a wonderful winter, my wife and I told ourselves last autumn. At weekends we were going to drive out of Moscow to an old and peeling dacha which we share with friends and spend hours gliding effortlessly around the countryside, rejoicing in a fairy-tale landscape covered by powder

After a month or two, we would no longer need to use the rickety lift that conveys us up to the ninth floor of our high-rise hostile climate. They will en-

of our hall, the consequences of legs. Wohhly jaw lines and a hrief flurry of determination unconvincing bottoms would vanish like a May frost.

All this must now wait. It took us weeks to equip ourselves, not least because cross-country ski boots proved astonishingly hard to find; in an odd inversion of the laws of supply and demand, these are easily acquired in the summer, but seem to disappear from Moscow's shelves when the snow arrives. What with that, and the erratic weather, we have used the skis only twice. Russians love cross-country skiing. It is deemed to be one of

MOSCOW DAYS

thuse about it with the same passion that they apply to hunting, ice-fishing and figure skating. Yet, for all the disappointment at this year's poor condi-

tions, I feel compelled to admit snowfields unlocked few of its mysterious delights; on the first, we trudged for about 500 yards into the woods, discovered we were exhausted, and walked home; on the second, I was with a colleague who was so much fitter and more agile than me that the pleasures of living in this he grew tired of being held back and took off into the distance.

After marvelling at the spectacular woodlands - pines and silver hirches engulfed by the hush of a fresh fall of snow - I also grew bored. Where's the sport in sliding slowly across a dead flat landscape? The skis seemed far too thin; the snow,

too deep; my legs, too fat. Next year, I have a new plan: amazingly, given that Moscow is mostly flat, you can go down-hill skiing in several places in the middle of the city. Just along from Gorky Park, 10 minutes drive from my home, the land

a modest feet downhillers can tootle up and flown the hill us-ing a small skepow.

even Aviemore wing its plea-sures more to the commanding

sures more to the commanding view across the liver and towards the Kreiklin than to speed or exercise But at least it is a pastime which has the merit of being failt safe.

That is more than be said about winter here is general. We have had our cap of rontine accidents - this peekend, three fishermen died wer they fell into the sea when their ice, floe broke up in a storic, this year, 1,066 people in the second alone have been treated for

towards the liver Moskva. For frostbite, while countless more mark case, is bringing criminal have been injured by falling over on ice, and 57 froze to death. Goodness knows how many ig a small skillow. Goodness knows how many
True, this is not St Moritz or road accidents can be blamed on the weather; the roads,

which are poorly marked and pot-holed at the best of times, are covered with an icy mucus, a mixture of salt and slush. Moscow does its best to keep the streets cleared. It sends out a snow-clearing lorry known to locals as "the Capitalist" because of its ability to suck up everything around it. But driving outside town is a nightmare.

There are also some particularly nasty unexpected perils. News broke this week of a 22year-old student who, in a land-

negligence charges against the Moscow city authorities after an enormous icicle came crashing down from a five-storey building, and killed her mother as she was walking in the street.

This will probably not be the last tragedy of its kind. This year the cycle of thaws and freezes has produced a particularly large crop of icicles - there were two six-footers hanging like sharks' teeth from the roof of the dacha yesterday, which occasionally shifted, giving off a loud rumble and providing another reason for us all to wish for an end to this lethal season.

Phil Reeves

# **Kussia** gets tough with tax dodgers

Phil Reeves

The hillboards around Moscow make the point as clearly as anyone can. A smooth young man in a suit glares out at the world. Like Uncle Sam, he is making a passionate appeal to the nation's patriotic impulses, although he points not with his finger but with a mobile phone. "I have submitted mine," says

the logo, "Have you?" Today is the deadline for Russians to hand in their personal income tax returns. For the nation's beleaguered treasurers it is a decisive moment, an opportunity to discover if the government has made any progress with a massive campaign to hring an end to an epidemic of tax-dodging.

The problem is one of the country's gravest economic maladies, spoiling efforts to switch to free market economics, and souring its relationship with its lenders at the International

estimate that only about half the country's personal earnings yield income tax, adding to a revenue collection crisis that has reduced budget forecasts to gibberish. The rest of the cash swirls around illegally in the

has gone to unprecedented lengths, bombarding the 148 million population with intimidating television advertise-

assault rifles: mountaineers and snipers are among their ranks. True, they are normally used to pursue mafia-run husinesses and other non-paying companies, rather than individuals. But that is beside the point. The

large black economy.
This year, the government

ments. One shows a man caught in the cross-hairs of a telescopic sight. "The choice is yours," growls the announcer. Alarming footage has been screened showing the tax po-lice's 500-strong Swat team in action. Their equipment includes grenades, tear gas, AK47

quite happy to scare the public into coming clean.

Tax gathering in Russia is no sy task. Last year - when Russia managed to raise only about two-thirds of taxes - 26 tax of-ficials were killed and 74 wounded in the line of duty.

homes hurned down, and at

least one was kidnapped. The violence is a result of a running war between the tax authorities and non-paying cor-porations. (These owe hillions: half of all Russia's overdue tax is owed by only 73 enterprises.)

cash-starved authorities are Several dozen have had their But it deepens the rift in a country where the federal authorities

are seen as inept and corrupt. Distrust of officialdom is a central part of the problem. In a recent survey by the Russian Marketing Research Company, 61 per cent agreed that tax evasion is not a crime. "One of the

greatest sources of this in was the amount of money that the goverroment spent on the military in Chechnya," said Peter Rein-

hardt, personal tax manager with Ernst & Young in Moscow. Broadly, the top rate of mcome tax is 35 per cent, which

kicks in for those earning

above \$8,500 (£5,312) a year. Average wages are closer to \$1,800, which is taxed at 12 per

cent. VAT is at 20 per cent. Those who lie on their tax returns, or fail to submit them, face penalties ranging from a

plus interest, or - for repeat of-

fenders - a jail sentence of up

to three years. The Swat teams do not help. "They tend to come through the front door and put a revolver up the receptionist's left nostril, no matter what kind of business they fine which equals their tax debt, are dealing with," said one Westem analyst. "It's not very nice."



Payment due: Mikhail Polyakov, head of the tax police's 500-strong Swat unit, flanked by an officer in full regalia

# Workers bid farewell to the doomed yards of Gdansk



Gďansk

The monument to the shipyard workers of Gdansk bears three anchors, to symbolise hope. But hope is in short supply as the shipyard, birthplace of Solidarity, is finally being closed after 17 years of financial problems and attempted restructuring. The Polish government is mumbling about a deal to save the yard involving a joint programme with the profitable Szczecin shipyards, but the luture looks bleak.

After being threatened with closure in 1980, then again in 1988, the Odansk yards were reprieved, to limp along during the early Nineties while their champion, Lech Walesa, was President of the Republic.

Mr Walesa returned to work in the shipyard briefly when he Mr Kowalezyk, says. "There is lost the presidential elections n no work, and I am angry." 1995, but his time there was short-lived. He went back to work, he said, because without a presidential pension, he had no money to support his fami-ly of eight children. After this stunt, the government passed a new law allowing for ex-presidents to receive a pension. Now he spends his time between the Lech Walesa Institute, where he gives interviews, lecture tours stroy people," said the widow of abroad, and the new house he a shipvard worker. "Rakowski is building in Warsaw's exclusion Oliwa district.

An air of resignation hangs over the town as the remaining 3,800 men are given their cards and prepare to search for jobs. But resignation is the preserve of the townslolk. The workers are angry, as evidenced by the

daily protests in the past weeks, not only in this port but throughout Poland. At the Lenin yard, Wojciech Kowalczyk is clocking in for his final shift, as he waits to be laid off the following day. "They said

they would reconstruct Gdansk for the city's millennium this year." he says, "hut this is what they meant. This is their gift to us. The yard could stay open if only we had support. Mr Kowalczyk has been a locksmith at the yard since he left school, and earns 700 zlo-ty a month (£140) for a 55-hour

week. He will receive no redundancy pay. The local job agency says there are nearly 1.500 jobs vacant in the region - a figure disputed by Solidarity - but none of them is related to the shipping industry. "I don't know what I will do now,

The announcement of the shipyard's closure was extremely had timing: simultaneously, the "Order of the White Eagles" a medal of honour - was being awarded by President Aleksander Kwasniewski to Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the former prime minister who tried in vain to close the Lenin yard in 1988. "The President is trying to degets a medal, while we go to the

memployment office. On the other side of the tram lines, workers whose shifts are over cram into small, smoke-filled bar. One, nearing 65, is worried about his pension. "I'm due to retire," he says, "I don't know whether my pension



Rioting in Gdansk in the 1980s (above left) and work

now reading Solidarity papers is secure. But at least I don't have to worry about work. It's the young men I feel sorry for." Another rails at Lech Walesa, sparking a fierce argu-ment. "Walesa has ahandoned us. I was at school with him, but ical symbolism.

Anyway, he is nothing now. He is just a small man." They are angry at what they see as a political move to crush the yard by the government, which is largely composed of former communists, and with the bank which denied them a crucial loan to fulfil orders for

he has forgutten us. He is a pig.

five ships. But the protests in Gdansk have been a muted affair, poorly attended by the public, in spite of their sympathy for the men.

At a special mass at St Brigitte's Church held by Fr Henryk Jankowski, a high-profile priest known in the West for his anti-Semitic views, the ageing congregation fills the collection plates with money for the workers. Stanislaw Raczmarck, 70, has come to pray for them. "I pray daily that the yard won't close." he says. "I live near here, and I remember everything that happened in 1970. 1 saw it all." As Poland shuffles ever nearer to the European Union, all sorts of jobs are in protesting.

danger, not just those of the shipyard workers. Since the Eighties the yard has been a fi-nancial liability, but no one has managed to close it because it has never been free of polit-

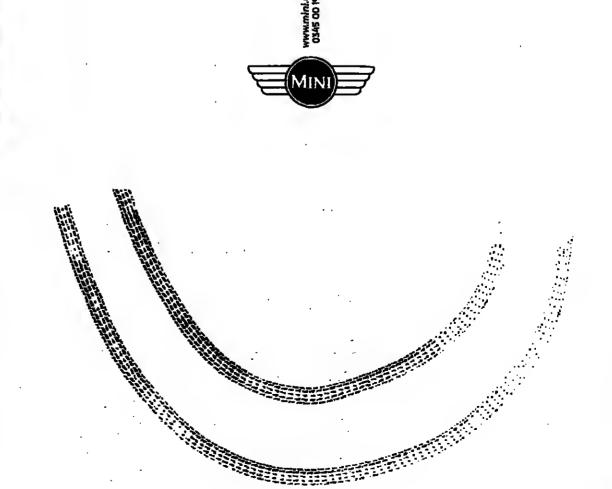
The yard's director, appointed in 1995, was given unill 28 February this year to save the yard, or sell it. Its book value is \$88m (£55m), but one reputed offer was for as little as

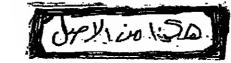
Now, the only real hope is a slim one: that a deal can be forged with the Gdynia yard 32km up the coast and the Szczecin yard 300km away. Gdynia has a full order book un til mid-1998, and will deliver 12 vessels worth \$400m this year. The proposal would involve bank loans to finance produc tion of five ships for a Polish company, Polska Zegluga Morska, which would provide work fur 2,000 of the 3,800 workers. Analysts are sceptical. They say the proposal would endanger Szczecin's strong position, and that without deadlines and guarantees, it would be nothing more than a state sub-sidy with political motives.

In the meantime, the workers and Solidarity will continue



TO HAVE A LAUGH ?





# Rebels advance as Kinshasa's rich party on

Ed O'Loughlin Kinshasa

Rebels are advancing in the east, Western troops are lurking across the river, and in town one of the President's closest allies has just denounced him, yet in Zaire's plundered capital of Kinshasa life goes on with an air of surreal normality.

While most Western diplomats have already written off President Mobutu Sese Seko's prospects for political survival, the bought politicians and corrupt businessmen who have benefited most from his 32-year reign continue to live out the good life, apparently indifferent to the impeoding storm.

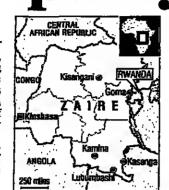
Yesterday hrought reports of the fall of Kamina, 400 miles north-west of Lubumhashi, the capital of Shaba province in the south-eastern copperbelt, and the next declared target of the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila. On Saturday the rehels took Kasenga, another key town to the north-west of Lubumbashi, while ex-prime minister Jean Nguz A Karl-I-Bond switched his lovalties to Mr Kabila.

For many wealthy Kinshasans, however, the weekeod was another opportunity for golf or tennis, or a chance to shop at the Intercontinental Hotel's expensive boutiques.

On Sunday the foreign press corps, fed up with two weeks waiting for the end to come, downed tools for a game of cricket against the Indian Embassy. It caught well the fin de siècle mood.

"The political class in Kinshasa is dancing oo a volcano, hut they doo't care," said ooe Western diplomat. "They keep their bank accounts overseas. and last week a lot of them seot their Mercedes across the river to the Coogo."

Even the ordinary people of Kiushasa, who have helped government troops to pillage the city twice since 1991, seem Two weeks ago the fall of Kisangani, 1,300km to the east, set the capital abuzz with rumours of imminent coups and outbreaks





Laurent Kabila: Town after town falling to his rebels

of looting. Western diplomats oow believe these fears have receded - for the time heing.

The presence of 2,000 troops from Belgium. France and the United States just across Coogo River in Brazzaville is believed to have reduced the likelihood of a fresh outbreak of street violence. As for political insurrection, most Kinshasans seem to want rid of the Mobutists but are willing to leave the job to someooe else.

'We don't know that Kahila will be any better, but we know we need a change," said Alphonse, a driver by trade. Thirty years of Mobutu is much too long - the bosses have taken all the wealth of the country, and we have oothing. Kabila will be very welcome if see what happens.

The calm in Kinshasa may reflect a dangerous delusioo in Mohutist circles. One Western

diplomat claims that there are still politicians and soldiers in Kinshasa who believe Mr Mobutu can pull off an escape act, that France might still come to their aid, that the rebellion is merely an invasion by Rwandan Tutsis - even that Zaire's unpaid demoralised handit army can still save the day.

Some observers believe that, despite President Mobutu's illness, his regime is playing for time, hoping to put off real ne-gotiations with Mr Kabila's rebels until after a ceasefire is somehow imposed by the international community. There are rumours that he may reinstate veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister, in an attempt to split the opposition.

But beyond the heavily guarded confines of Mr Mobutu's Tsitaki palace few people believe that time is on his side. Prostate cancer has destroyed his health, and this week Kinshasans were recalling again his promises that "Zaire will have a late president, but never an expresident" .The jury is out on the prediction: in the east Mr Kabila has already symbolically reinstated Patrice Lumumba's leftist Congo Republic, replaced by Mr Mobutu's Zaire follow-

ing a 1965 coup.
The rebel advance is pushing towards the main diamond and copper mining centres of Mbu-ji-Mayi and Lubumbashi, source of most of his regime's wealth and power. Diplomats believe that, denied access to his revenue, Mr Mobutu's regime will collapse without any need for further military action.

"Kinshasa has to fall from the inside," said one Western diplomat. "For the rebels to come here is too far and too complicated."

Few people, Zairean or otherwise, believe oow as they did a few mooths ago that a rebel victory will cause Zaire to splinter immediately along ethnic or provincial fault lines. Instead, for Mr Kabila to come and liberate them, the man once reviled for breaking the nation is



# Hong Kong still worth a gamble

Hong Kong

Schizophrenia is setting in. At any rate, this is the diagnosis proffered by some well-meaning friends. They fear that my work for this newspaper and my business interests are moving fast in different directions.

Let me explain: I think I am the only foreign correspondent in Hong Kong to have started business here. It is a food related business, because I believe in the old maxim that whatev-

er happens, people have to eat. This year, the year in which China takes over the colony, I and my partners, the majority of whom are Chinese, will be doubling the size of the business money to do so.

Meanwhile, I spend my time hunched over a computer keynow being asked to unify it. | hoard punching out stories

rounding the return to Chinese rule, the dangers posed by various changes and generally reflecting what may be described as a rather pessimistic outlook.

Surely, therefore, I should be scrambling to liquidate my financial interests and ferret what can be salvaged back to a safe bank account in Blighty. How can I justify casting doubt on what China describes as the Glorious Return to the Motherland" without acting on

the logic of this view? Believe me. I do think about this. However, I feel that my mindset is now similar to that of most of the Chinese people around me. They, too, must take some significant decisions about a new life overseas. The majority stay, including those with the

lieve all the guff about returning to the motherland but. because when they do their sums they discover they will be far better off in Hong Kong than m the low-growth economies of

My partners and I have done our sums and, accordingly, have taken the plunge into new investment. We reckon we will make a good return. None of us is under the illusion that we're not taking a risk, probably greater than the type of risk busi-

essmen would take elsewhere. Ouly a fool would ignore the possibility that everything could go horribly wrong, meanmore importantly, where to brought up in China during the crty prices retain their steady keep themselves. Many decide Cultural Revolution. Experie upward climb and why mooey that security can only be guaranteed in potential madness of is not leaving these tiny shores anteed by leaving and starting the Chinese system is a salutary ... in shiploads. It also helps to ex-

what sort of money we could ewards justify the risk. Here's the rub. I imagine

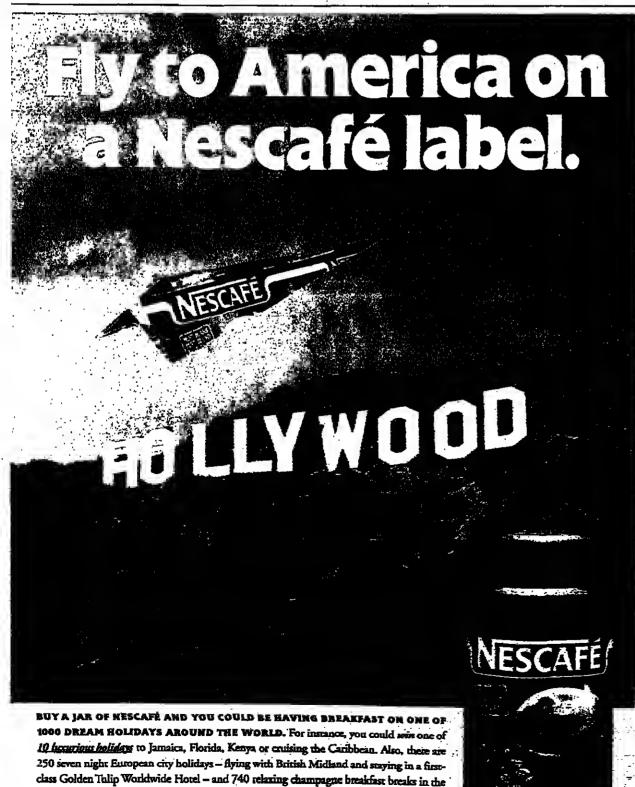
that our calculations are much the same as those being made by a host of other people here in Hong Kong. We are all balancing risk and reward. Some may be more bullish and confidently assert that the rewards outweigh the risks. I would oot go that far, preferring the cautious assessment that the rewards justify the risk. The laws of commerce are no different here than elsewhere, meaning that the greater the risk, the greater the reward.

Once this is understood, it being we could literally lose every. comes clear why the local stock reminder of what could happen. plain why survey after survey

that we are all ensnared in a conspiracy of confidence. We have taken a gamble by invest-ing in Hong Kong and would be foolish to go around saying that we've taken the gamble oo o place with foundations which are about to crumble.

Outsiders, but no one here. might wooder whether these strictures apply just to fat-cat capitalists and aspirant fat-cat capitalists. The question can only be asked by those who do oot understand Hong Kong.

The reason Hong Kong works is that few people believe that they, or at least their children, have no chance of getting rich. The culture of low expectations is ooo-existent here. the stock market and are familiar with the currency markets. They, too, want to take a gamble oo the future and will do so, given half a chance.



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## China boasts of record on rights

Teresa Poole Peking

China, which insists it has no political prisoners, yesterday admitted 2,026 people were in jail for "counter-revolutionary" crimes. Zhang Xiufu, Vice-Minister of Justice, said: "In China, counter-revolutionary prisoners are not political prisoners, they are prisoners who have endangered national security ... or have conducted activities to overthrow the political power of China."

The distinction is largely academic for the families of those who have been locked away. Relatives of Wang Dan, the for-mer student leader who last year was sentenced to 11 years for subversion, say he is suffering from stomach, throat and prostate problems. Mr Zhang insisted the prisoner was in good health, and "even joined

singing contest in prison"." There was little evidence yesterday, as China published its annual White Paper on its own human rights record, of the "more receptive" stance US vice-president Al Gore said he witnessed last week when raising the subject with China's leaders. Peking has been buoyed by France's decision not

to co-sponsor a motion criti-cising China at the UN Human Rights Convention in Geneva. The White Paper maintained China's position that the right to food and shelter transcends other considerations. "The progress China made in its hun rights undertakings in 1996 has once again proved China always places top priority on its people's right to subsistence and development," it said. There

was no mention of dissidents. Economic growth, legal re-form and the "strike hard" crackdown on crime were cited as evidence of improved human rights. Last month, China scrapped the charge of counter-revolution in favour of endangering state security. On paper there have been many reforms. The problem is the gulf between

theory and practice. Yesterday, Mr Zhang was leased from prison last May, is still under house arrest. Mr Bao was the most senior political figure jailed after the Tiananmen Square massacre he is not suitable any more for ministerial-level housing and want to change his residence but have so far failed to do so,"



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# Could Labour master the mandarins?

t's odd how, despite being hand-bagged by Margaret Thatcher and battered in the service of Tory ministers who have been deserted by their sense of proportion and parliamentary propriety, the mandarinate retains its mystique. Former permanent secre-taries are fêted with hardly a backward glance at their departmental stewardship. The conduct of schools, prisons, abattoirs and child support offices, let alone exchange-rate decisions, are never held to be the responsibility of the advice-givers of Whitehall - those eminent public servants who, as we reported yesterday, fear that Tory reforms to Whitehall have gone too far, dehilitating the machine.

Meanwhile, important relationships remain deliberately shrouded. Column inches are expended on speculation about who might succeed Sir Rohin Butler as head of the Civil Service and Cahinet Secretary, but nobody bothers to ask with whom Sir Robin has a contract of employment, indeed whether he has one at all, let alone what are the performance criteria that might, say, win him a bonus. In other words, for all the effort expended on managerial reform inside central government over recent years, the higher Civil Service has largely gone unexamined and so unchanged.

Whoever wins the election, they will on 2 May inherit a Whitehall machine that is part-reformed and so only partmodernised. Aspects of its work remain

mysterious - that word is apposite in a constitutional set-up that obfuscates the sources and exercise of power as a matter of course.

But the system works. By and large, policies get implemented. Efficiency has, in some areas, demonstrably increased. The Conservatives deservecredit for having asked sharp questions about operations. Why, asked Michael Heseltine as long ago as 1980, do we not know what departmental officials do, let alone how much they cost? The Financial Management Initiative of the early Eighties provided some answers. Why, asked a White Paper in 1988, is Whitehall management so amateur? The establishment of executive agencies to administer passports and licences began to supply a remedy. But the Conserva-tives funked equally pressing questions, to do with the architecture of Whitehall: why do we have all these departments pursuing such anachronistic purposes? The débacle in the running of prisons was not principally Michael Howard's fault; it was the fault of a Cabinet that refused to address the problem of professional service management under amateur ministers.

On winning, Labour would thus inherit a machine, some of whose parts are running hetter than ever, but one that has managed to duck hig questions about power and responsibility. Signs are that Labour has done little thinking in detail about where it wants to take



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reform. Instead, as power has beckoned, we have seen the hoariest of leftof-centre anxieties getting trotted out. Like the one about the mandarin embrace. It is as if Tony Benn were still politically alive, and permanent secre-taries were a kind of fifth column out to seduce Labour ministers away from the true socialist faith.

The gist of the advice tendered to would-be Labour ministers vesterday in a Fabian pamphlet by Peter Hennessy was: "Shape up and tell the civil servants what to do, firmly, and they will." Such schooling is welcome, if only to dispel any lingering nonsense about the higher

Civil Service having been corrupted by serving the Tories for all these long years. Labour has more to worry about. in the intellectual hankruptcy of senior officials than from their loyal service to the Tories - in certain policy areas, such as Europe, jobs and social policy, Whitehall has become a desert of knowledge and ideas. But the main point is that a clear distinction needs to be made between civil servants as partisans of the party in office and the fact that civil servants draw their identity from ohliging the present holders of power - ministers. The Scott report on arms to Iraq, and the equally informa-

the Prison Service, tell of civil servants who are not employed to make moral or political distinctions. Their task is to sustain power, which for practical purposes means their ministers.
Whether this professional dedication

is additionably directed is a different question from whether Labour ministers might benefit from it. They cer-tainly could. If Labour wins the elec-tion, it can either utilise the machine as it is, or eek to reform it while simul-taneously governing according to its new priornes.

some reform will be forced on it willy-nilly it is hard to see Labour's spending dynamitments being delivered by the Treasury as presently constituted, just as it is hard to see Tony Blair failing to balance his position against the Treasury by beefing up No 10. Similarly, Labour's commitment to devolution of fewer to Scotland and devolution of power to Scotland and Wales will force Whitehall changes. But, beyond that? Dies Labour plan to gov-ern with civil servants whose culture and reflexes contributed, in those events and procedures so painstakingly described in the Scott report, to the amoralism which is now surfacing as "sleaze"?

Civil servants would prove as adept

at the hlack arts under Labour as under the Tories Labour, however, appears friendly toward the emerging the centre of any of our larger of formal code of Civil Service conduct, urbations, it most certainly is not.

tive if tendentious memoir by Derek is thinking about incorporating the Levis of his 1,000 days at the head of European Convention on Human European Convention on Human Rights, is warm towards partiamentary reform and freedom of information. All those could weaken the old loyalty of civil servant and minister and, temporarily at least, leave Labour ministers less adept in the exercise of power.

It is a conundrum on which Mr Blair and his colleagues have spent little mental energy, mainly because they think it matters less than knowing what they want, and getting on with it. They ought to think more carefully, because if they are not sure what they want (and they aren't, entirely). Labour ministers may find that the inhabitants of Whitehall are less help than they hope.

### A small victory for Rutland

Welcome back, Rutland. (Though, of course, you never really went away.) What lessons can we draw from your mhabitants' long refusal to accept incorporation into Leicestershire? Simple, really. One, don't mess with other people's sense of their own identity: they know a lot more about it than yon do. Two, small is not necessarily beautiful. In Rutland, perhaps; but m the centre of any of our larger con-

### - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

### Yes, sleaze is the real election issue

Sir: Even your leading article "For democracy's sake, sack him" (31 March) follows the line that sleaze is a distraction from the main election issues. I find that a hizarre reading of a bizarre campaign.

The issue in this election is accountability, in a great range of forms. Is Westminster government free to refuse the constraint of full partnership in Europe, and to emasculate local government? Can individual ministers preside over preventable disasters and stay in office? Is it acceptable for one party to hold power for a quarter of a century? And, of course, can members of a government exe themselves from public morality?

What is bizarre is that cohody seems willing to say this is the core of the election. The real issues used to be economic, but the electorate knows there is as near consensus there as does not matter. But the divine right of Westminster governments - that is not only a

real issue, but a gigantic one. Although we seem to be too shy to say we care about such things, sleuze is a proxy that we dare to name. So - let us talk about it. Dr RODDY COWIE

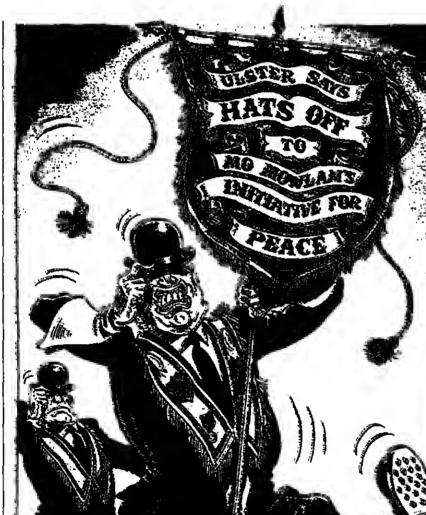
Sir. There is a public hunger for parliamentary prohity, gravity and responsiveness. This might be a good moment to introduce an Electorate's Charter, like the Patient's Charter, specifying standards of performance. My own profession has chosen this moment to reconsider the Hippocratic Oath. There is another principle by which we are adjured to work:
"First, do no harm ..." This should
be graven in letters of fire oo the minds of parliamentarians too.

The electorate is losing whatever measure of confidence it ever had in Parliament, A reformed and independent second chamber could have as a primary duty the disciplining and surveillance of the Commons. Dr STEVEN FORD MRCGP Haydon Bridge, Northumberland

Sir: Mr Faved behaved disgracefully in offering money to MPs and those who took the money hehaved disgracefully too. They ought not to be in Parliament. Mr Merchant allowed himself to be trapped into folly by a girl of an age to be his daughter and he must not stand for Parliament again. But why have the crusading Guardian and Sim attacked sleaze only among Tories? Do they think the public so naïve as to believe that there are no black sheep among the other parties? It really would be in the public interest if the job were

done properly. I see two clear outcomes of the scandals. Parliament must no longer regulate itself; and professional lobbvists must be hanned. DONALD KING Crockenhill,

Sir: In connection with the various sleaze accusations, we are hearing a lut about the "natural justice" that the accused are said to be entitled to. What do those who use the term mean by "natural justice"? Nature is "red in tooth and claw". Justice. like "fair play", is something that we agree to extend to one another. Unlike sleaze, there is nothing natural about it. Dr D ZUCK London NI2





### Goalposts move as Iragis starve

Sir. The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, makes it clear that the ever-moving goalposts relating to the lifting of the embargo on Iraq have again shifted ("US committed to hard line against Saddam's Iraq", 27 March). Compliance with UN resolutions concerning Iraq's weapons is no longer sufficient for the lifting of sanctions. Given the Security Cuuncil's dexterity since the end o the Gulf War, even if total compliance is achieved, another goal post will appear.

One condition to be complied with by Iraq is human rights. Yet according to the US-based International Humaoitarian Law Commission report, compiled from UN agencies' own figures, 47,500 people died in one year alone as a direct result of UN sanctions. By 1994, 500,000 children were dead. Deaths from malnutrition have

increased eightfold since 1989. A project undertaken in Baghdad found 28 per cent of children stunted. There was severe vitamin D deficiency amongst the population. Diarrhoea. dehydratiun, typhoid, diabetes, hepaulis, marasmus and kwashiorkor (the last eradicated prior to the embargo) were souring. Medication is almost non-existent. and surgery has been cut by 70 per cent and is often performed without anaesthesia because of

shortage, the report states. Chlorine and spare parts for water treatment plants are banned under the sanctions, so the water is severely contaminated and waterhorne diseases also endemic. Yet in spite of this silent

holocaust in the name of democracy, when Ms Albright was asked oo the US television programme Sixty Minutes (12 May 1996) if the deaths of half a million children "was worth it" in order to

overshrow Saddam Hussein, she replied " ... it is a hard choice, but ves, the price, we think the price is worth it. **FELICITY ARBUTHNOT** 

Sir: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has endorsed the continued economic embargo aimed at the Iraqi people, which has already caused many thousands of deaths. These were not accideotal or unforeseen.

In US law, international terrorism is defined as "acts dangerous to human life ... that appear intended to coerce a civilian population or to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion". The

embargo fits this definition.

The Additional Protocols of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 define as war crimes "making the civilian population the object of attack", as well as "launching an indiscriminate attack affecting the civilian population or civilian objects in the knowledge that such attack will cause excessive loss of life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects".

To starve a population falls squarely into this definition. High Contracting Parties to these conventions and protocols are required to prosecute individuals responsible for war crimes. Yet no

court has initiated any legal inquiry or proceedings in this matter. ELIAS DAVIDSSON Reykjavik, Iceland

### Benefit change hits disabled

Sir. It would appear that in the proposed changes to housing be offit little thought has been given to the impact on disabled people. The changes would limit the amount of housing beoefit available for single people under 60 living in the private sector to the cost of shared accommodation.

This would mean that disabled people living in self-contained accommodation might have to move to shared housing. Not only is shared housing not suitable for many disabled people, but it may be impossible to find accessible shared housing. For example, it may be dangerous for someone with a visual impairment to share accommodation with other people who may inadvertently move furniture or kitchen equipment. Although the Government intends to exempt those they consider severely disabled, this will only affect a maximum of 6,000 people, a small percentage of the disabled

people who would be affected. These proposals could also prove very expensive. In 1994/5, 1.500 private-sector tenants received disabled facilities grants to adapt their homes. The average grant was £3.700. If these disabled people have to move to shared housing

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e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

they will need another grant.
Added to this will be the increased cost to social services for community care if the shared accommodation is limiting the

disabled person's independence. The regulations are now before Parliament and the proposals are due to be implemented in October. We would urge the next government to reconsider. BERT MASSIE

Director
The Royal Association for Disability
and Rehabilitation
London EC1

### Hong Kong press still awake

Sir: Your leading article (29 March) about Hong Kong's "worrying week", faithfully reflecting the fashionable view, m-London at least, concludes that it is "harder and harder to express any criticism of the new order". As it happens, last week provided a couple uf . pointers in exactly the opposite direction which may indicate that we haven't all sunk into the trance you ascribe to us.

There were two hig political . controversies here during the week the appointment by the future Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, of a high-profile politicism and surveyor to head his housing task force, and a comment by one of Mr Tung's advisers saying that the courts here were not empowered to take up the question of the legality. of the provisional legislature.

On the first issue, Mr Tung ran into a barrage of criticism. As well as comment from politicians, there were a dozen editorials and columns pointing to the potential conflict of interest in the appointment, plus a batch of

investigative stories on the surveyor's husiness record. On the second, a wave of protest which was fully reported in the press, culminated in Mr Tung himself saying that the courts were free to question anything. It may be that most newspapers

here are generally supportive of Mr Time, but that does not mean they have given up their liberty. After all, I guess it may be harder than it once was to find criticism of the coming new order in Britain in the biggest-selling daily in the land. IONATHAN FENBY South China Morning Post . Hong Kong

Sir: Words cannot describe the excitement I felt when I recognised a face from my past on the froot page of *The Independent* (24 March) – Lily Wong. My relationship with Lily began

some eight to nine years ago. I, like Lily, call Hong Kong home and am the product of an East-West marriage similar to Lily and Stuart's. When I moved to the UK in 1989 my parents continued to collect the strips and kept me up to date with HK life and political developments. When Lily was ripped away from her public I had

given her up for lost. I shall be returning home for the hand-over and the next 90 days will be a fairly emotional time. It is therefore wonderful that Lily will be here for the duration. CAROLINE GREEN London SW15

### Pay parents to stay at home

Sir: Polly Toynbee is taken to task by Elizabeth Young (letter, 28 March) for failing to acknowledge that many women would opt for full-time stay-at-home motherhood if they could afford to. Elizabeth Young suggests that child benefit should be increased, up to school age, so as to give mothers that

This has long been argued by Michael Young and Professor Halsey, as a "Guardianship Allowance", payable to the parent willing to stay out of the labour-market and be a full-time guardian. My own preference would be to extend the allowance to cover all the primary years, up to the age of 12 - and to pay it at a reasonable flat rate of £100 per week, though liable to income tax. Child Benefit would continue, albeit at a lower level, to reflect the number of children in the family.

This new manifestation of the welfare state might at first seem "expensive", in the prevailing language of public parsimony. But, as Elizabeth Young points out, the labour market would be easier for those with no option but to depend upoo it, educational standards would improve, and crime and teenage disruptive behaviour would be dramatically reduced. ROGER WARREN EVANS

### Tricky figures from Forsyth

Sir: I congratulate Anthony Bevins Tartan dividend pays off for Scots", 24 March) for taking the trouble to check the veracity of Michael Forsyth's statistics regarding the difference in identifiable public expenditure between the nations which make up the United Kingdom. Most political journalists from Londonpased newspapers appear to accept the Scottish Secretary of State's figures and to quote them

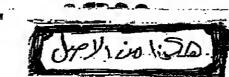
Here in Scotland we tend to view Mr Forsyth's statistics with a great deal of scepticism. Comparing identifiable public expenditure between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom is meaningless. Scotland and England, for example, are funded in quite different ways and local authorities in Scotland have more statutory responsibilities than their English counterparts. The Government is always careful to exclude unidentifiable public expenditure from its statistics, which invariably favours England. The statistics which Michael Forsyth and the Government use (and abuse) conceal as much as they reveal. LINDA MACNISH Forres, Moray

### Wedded bliss

Sir: Petronella Wyatt ("Marriage? No, I'd rather live", 28 March) lists among her reasons for wishing to remain single the belief that "sexual attraction runs its course in two or three years".

Whits I would not in any way attempt to dissuade her from the single life, if that is what she chooses, she should not be so dogmatic nor pessimistic I have been married now for 16 years (to the same person!
One of the main reasons I chose

my husband was sexual attraction, and I feel no differently about him KATHARINE MOURBY



# A new partner for the Middle East

The United States has lost any credibility it once had with the Arabs as an honest broker for peace. Only Europe can fill the gap now, argues Robert Fisk

even if - through amnesia or All relations between the Arab wishful thinking – they are largely ignored in the West. Almost 5,000 Egyptian students

Almost 5,000 Egyptian students

Arab League. last week demanded a "holy war" for Jerusalem and were driven back at Cairo University since the emirate was liberated by the United States in 1991, an American flag has been burnt in the streets of Kuwait. Iran has renewed its ties with the PLO after 18 years of mutual hatred - in a meeting that also went largely unrecorded. President Rafsanjani met Yasser Arafai in Islamahad - while outside Jerusalem, the mother of the Palestinian who slaughtered three young Israeli women with his suicide homh announces that her son "died nobly".

The Israeli secret services largely regarded as death squads by Palestinians - have

THE

ow soon will the been told to operate once again explosion in the in Palestinian "autonomous areas", while the PLO bas come? The signs warned that Israeli agents will be shot down if they are found.

Why haven't the Americans woken up 10 the imminent are to hlame. After all, until only a few days ago, a BBC World Service reporter was still hlithely talking about Israel's construction of a "Jewish housing project" on a "disputed" hill outside Jerusalem, as if all that was at stake was an argument over a public utility. The "project", of course, is a Jewish settlement and the hill is occupied Arab land upon which any construction is in flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, the resolution that was supposed to be the very foundation of the 1991 Madrid "peace process".

It is not difficult to see bow this kind of reporting can become mendacious as well as incomprehensible. If no more than a parcel of "disputed" land is at issue, how could it have led a Palestinian to murder three women in Tel Aviv? Even the Palestinian who killed three people at the Empire -and, indeed, the Europeans - State Building - a murder equally incomprehensible when political motives - now turns out to have written a letter hefore his suicide in which be raged against the taking of Arab land by Israel.

It is, of course, too late to hope that the US will shake itself free of its thrall to Israel. Madeleine Albright devoted almost all her recent remarks on the crisis to the need for Arafat to prevent "terrorism", devoting only the mildest crit-icism to Israel for the Abu Ghoneim/Har Homa Jewish settlement. US negotiator Dennis Ross's latest visit to Arafat and Netanyahu proved to be a



Getting involved: Jacques Chirac pushes away an Israeli bodyguard in Jerusalem last October

Photograph: Reuters

total failure. How pltifully Washington has fallen from the aspirations it beld out to Arab and Jew at Madrid in 1991. And how pathetic is the growing Arab appeal to Europe to intervene in the Middle East

to save the peace. Europe? After the catastrophe of Bosnia, how can any Arab Mus-lim trust Europe? How, indeed, could any Israeli Jew trust. Europe when from that continent's very heart came those who committed the most wicked crime of modern history, the Holocaust?
Yet Europe has been integ-rally involved in the "peace

process". It was represented at the Madrid summit. It bas bankrolled the 1993 Oslo agreement. It rewarded both embassies, rewards that will be kept, of course, by those who are now destroying the peace. It was Europe, too, which accepted - long before the US and Israel ever did - that the PLO should be involved in peace negotiations. British, as well as other European ambassadors, met Yasser Arafat's senior officials throughout the Seventies. There is still a rumour in the Middle East that many of Arafat's speeches

ambassador to Tunis. And it was the memher states of the European Union in 1980 that drafted the Venice declaration, which specifically stated that the PLO should he "associated" with peace negotiations. The terms of the Venice declaration were repeated by European foreign ministers in Paris four years later wheo they added their support to the "right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that this implies" (the last five words underlined in the

between 1988 and 1992 were

drafted by the then British

The Europeans maintained foreign policy, Europe nooe their commitment to Middle East peace, In Brussels in 1987, Community foreign ministers ditions in the West Bank and Gaza, and giving preferential access to the Community for goods from the occupied territories. A year later, the EU was welcoming the Palestine National Council's acceptance of UN Security Council resolution 242 - calling for total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab land in return for the security of all states in the area - the same resolution that James Baker was later to cite,

in confidential letters to Arab leaders, as the basis of the post-Gulf War "peace process". of the 1993 Oslo

PLO allowed both sides to delay the most impor tant issues that separated them - giving Israel time, for example, to encircle Jerusalem with

settlements such as Har Homa which contained no international guarantees, which left half the Palestinian population with no "right of return", and, most damaging of all, effectively allowed Israel to renegotiate UN resolution 242 rather than be compelled to abide by it. A supine United States - whose Middle East policy is indistinguishable from Israel's - has signally failed to stand by its obligations as an "honest broker" in the "peace process". This is why so many m the Middle East are now looking towards Europe.

deal between

Israel and the

Enfeebled as it may be

the Middle East. Last year, President Jacques Chirac renew its ties with its former mandate territories of Syria and Lebanon and, by travelling to Damascus, French foreign minister Hervé de Charette secured a place for France on the south Lebanese ceasefire committee last April, to the fury of the Americans and the Israelis. The French, as well as

the Israelis, Americans, Syrians and Lebanese, now sit on that By visiting Jerusalem last October - and by publicly expressing his anger at the Israeli security men surrounding him before his visit to the

Since the 11th century, the conflict between Christianity and Islam has been our conflict, so why should the Muslims trust us?

> cncouraged the Palestinians to excesses of American policy. believe that Europe understood The 1995 Barcelona confe their predicament and the imbalance in the "peace process". Chirac felt personally humiliated, privately expressing his exasperation at the Israelis who insisted that he always left and entered his Jerusalem botel via the tradesmen's entrance. But. it was de Charette who bluntly asked this week "whether we can any longer talk about a peace process". It is the French parliament which is now reconsidering whether Israel should still be given special trading status with the EU. Perhaps what is needed is a

closer realisation of what the Middle East - and the north African nations, as well - mean tified national interests in the Middle East; cynics might sum them up as Israel and oil, though not necessarily in that something infinitely more important: the nations of the Middle East are our neighbours. They will never be neighbours of America.

Since the 11th century, the conflict between Christianity and Islam has been our conflict. So why should Muslims trust us, given the murderous nature of that relationship? Yet in many parts of the Middle East, Europe is now seen as a balancing force - a proxy, if you like, to the old Soviet Union - whose friendship must last longer than America's, whose interests are more intimate to the Middle

> whose relationship witb region however tragic or evil it has been at least now avoids the

The 1995 Barcelona conference offered European "partnership" with the nations of the Middle East rather than the traditional subservience that the US demands of its Arab allies. Barcelona demanded a peace settlement hased on UN Security Council resolutions "and principles meononed in the letter of invitation to the Madrid ... Conference, including the principle of land for The Barcelona

Euro-Mediterranean partnership" - for it extended the Middle East to Morocco and Algeria - also produced political objectives: democracy, human rights, liberal economies. Not, you may say, the sort of aspirations likely to commend

the proposed relationship.

o in the critical days ahead, Europe will have an opportunity to offer at the least - a neutral third party as the American "peace process" inevitably fragments. Perhaps the catastrophe looming in the Middle East will force European ministers to unify their objectives in the region, even to follow France's independent lead.

In both Europe and America, the British foreign secretary Malcolm Rifkind has been doggedly criticising Israel's settlement policies, hut it is going to need stronger stuff and a role in the area. EU financial penalties against those who break their agreements might be a fair balance to the rewards that Europe has dutifully handed out over the past six

Perhaps it should also make an offer of peacekeepers from Nato nations who could ensure that the terms of the original 1991 "peace process" are kept, and who could judge how rigorously both sides are prepared to stick to the terms of this agreement. For only by a return to the land-for-peace deal based on UN resolution 242 which the Arabs were originally promised - is a future hloodbath likely to be avoided.

Perhaps, too, European jour-nalists (including the BBC) – as opposed to American reporters - must face more truthfully the moral issues of the Middle East crisis, however much they may be criticised for doing so. In any event, American credibility is now at its nadir in the Arab world. There is no reason why Europe should join it in disas-

## God sends Channel 5 and oven gloves **/**-DAY

**PENSION** was at home last week. minding my own business (which I can't tell you about, obviously, as it was my own business when there came a knock at it doesn't have to take forever to the door. Theo there came a start a pension - just 7 days. ring at the door. Finally there came a shout of: With us, your pension can be well "Anyone in?" underway by this time next week, Reluctantly I stopped or whenever it suits you best. minding my own business, and went to answer the door, For full written details of our where I found a smartlooking young man with a large bag over his shoulder.
"Good morning," he said.
"I wonder if you have ever read this little book?" And

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re you EXPLOYED or SELF EMPLOYED ? (14

he pushed a religious tract into my hand, which I saw at a glance would lead to eternal salvation if I followed its precepts.
"No," I said, "and nor do I want to. Eternal salvation sounds too gloomy by far. Temporary salvation, maybe. Salvation every other Thursday, definitely. But not the eternal kind." His eyes oever flickered. "You're not a religious

person, then?" "I have my own personal arrangements with God," I said. "He doesn't bother me and I don't bother Him. ."Fine." said the man. "How are you off for oven

gloves?"

"Pardon?" 1 said, taken slightly off-guard.
"We have some

particularly good gloves at the moment," he said, opening his bag to reveal a spread of domestic treasures. This is the good oldfashioned cotton kind, absolutely proof against burns, in three traditional

"Hold on," I said, "I thought you were a God "And so I am," he said. "If

you had shown any signs of eing saved I would have tried to save you, but as you were obviously beyond redemption, I thought you might buy some oven gloves."
Do you think oven gloves
will redeem me in some way

oot known even to ovenglove maoufacturers?" "I will ignore your snide tone," he said, "I will merely point out that those of us who tramp from door to door

trying to spread the gospel, and usually failing, have recently realised that we should diversity. We have unique access to the front doors of the kingdom. Why not use it to sell useful objects as well?"
"And make a hit of money

on the side?"



Kington

on the side. Now, we have also got garden kneelers, clothes pegs, ironing board

He want through the usual list of pedlar's wares. As usual, I didn't really need any of them: As usual, I bought lots. I have almost enough gardening gloves now to start my own peddling husiness. my own peddling husiness. Maybe that is how a lot of door-to-door pedlars get started. They're simply off-loading the stuff they have God'a message! Would it not bought from other pedlars. be better to point your acrial I started to close the door

to indicate that I had run out of ready money.
"Well, if you're not going to buy any more," he said.

perhaps I could come in and get on with the rest of my

The rest of your business? Reading the gas meter, perhaps?" I said, with a return of my snide tone. "Watering my house plants? Doing a bit of letter dictation?"

"Retuning your TV set to Channet 5," he said. "You're a Channel 5 retuner?" I said. I hadn't been expecting

"Once you're a combination missionary and pediar." he said, "it is but a small step to taking on other functions. Many small fuodamentalist churches hav eagerly embraced the opportunity to learn a new skill, that of retuning your TV set to receive the new channel Indeed, you could say, could you not, that we men and womeo are all of us TV sets, human TV sets, as it were, but only programmed to receive what we want to hear. How easy it would be to retune our hearts to receive

news? Why not let Heaven retune your heart now ...!'
"No," I said. "No. what?"

in the direction of good

"No, I don't want it." "Don't want God's word? Or Channel 5?"

"Neither. Either. I do not want to receive God's word and I do not want to receive more television. In a sense you know, we are all like off switches. We can all turn ourselves off and go and do something more useful."

"You get a free gift if you let me retune you to Channel

"A free gift from Channel

"Yes. Some perfume."
"What kind of perfume?"
"Chanel No.5, of course!" He roared with laughter. He roared alone. Never swap jokes with a salesman, that's my motto. I started to close the door again. He bade me a reluctant farewell and started to retreat. I opened the door

again. He stopped. "As a matter of interest." I said, "tell me one thing. Why didn't you diversify a little further and take the golden opportunity to do some canvassing for one of the parties in the election?"

"We did think of that," he said "And?" "We decided there were some things we wouldn't sink

Fair enough.

# Labour's offer to Sinn Fein was not naïve nor a gaffe

A li the main parties this week will expend time, tens of thousands of words, and a great deal of energy proving how when in government they would shape events – and virtually none on how events will shape them. Yet it's the second that may prove, at least initially, the greater question. Just think of how the decisions that will bear down most immediately on an incoming Labour government will be less ahout changing Britain than responding to an external and fast-moving set of circumstances over which they have only limited control, with which any party in power would which any party in power would have to deal, and of which no potential Labour cabinet mem-ber has any ministerial experi-ence: the hand-over of Hong Koog: a Europeao ageoda dramatised by the imminence of the Amsterdam summit, the pace of monetary union, and the 1998 British presidency of the EU; and, perhaps sharpest of all, Northern Ireland.

Mo Mowlam's observation, in a BBC Radio Ulster interview at the weekend, that there would be a "high possibility" of Sinn Fein joining inter-party talks wheo they resume on 3 June if they called a ceasefire now, is already being used by her critics as evidence that Tony Blair's Northern Ireland spokeswoman doesn't under-stand this simple truth – and thinks that by waving a wand she can wish peace on Northern Ireland. It really demon-

ree

ng

strates quite the opposite. For all the gibes from Unionists and the political right about her "naïvety", Dr Mowlam's remarks don't wash. She didn't make new policy. Nor did she modify a key condition that she and Blair have already made clear; for a post-ceasefire Sinn Fein to enter talks there would have to be evi-Fein to enter talks, there would have to be evidence that the IRA had ceased for a significant period surveillance and targeting opera-tions. And once a decision had been takeo to admit them, the republicans would have to sign up unequivocally to the Mitchell principles, which include reounciation of violence as a means of achieving their ends and a progressive hand-over of arms during the talks. Instead, Dr Mowlam's remarks remind the republicans first that Labour, like the present government, would ideally like to see Sinn Fein in talks, and second, that if they are to have any chance of joining them early the IRA would do well to start its ceasefire oow. Indeed, she was explicit in saying that a ceasefire in - say - mid-May would not be early enough to justify Sinn Fein's inclusioo in the talks by 3 June. She didn't consult Tony Blair before her ioterview, because she didn't have to: strikingly, moreover, Downing Street and the Northern Ireland Office did not, after a period of silent hesitation, jom in the deounciation. In other words, Dr Mowlam knew

exactly what she was saying.

This is more typical than her detractors allow. There has been speculation both outside - and more covertly within - her own party over whether Dr Mowlam would in fact be Blair's first Northern Ireland Secretary, Her invariably male critics like to point to a mildly gaffe-sprinkled past before she took the job. A Blair loyalist from the very first, they like to mutter, but is she quite up to it? A good deal of such speculation is based on a kind of subliminal sexism: Northern Ireland is boys' stuff, it seems to say. How could a woman, especially io as un-PC a society as Northern Ireland, be Major has bequeathed to his successor.



Donald Macintyre

It is now pretty certain that Tony Blair would appoint Mo Mowlam as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

appoint her, and probably give her the unfashy but skifful Welshman Paul Murphy as her political minister of state. So far, so good. But the fact that Dr Mowlam is indeed well up to the job doesn't mean, as she knows better than anyone, that an incoming Labour gov-erument has a magic solution. It suits Martin McGuiness, as he did yesterday, to imply that Tony Blair will be a much eas-ier touch than John Major. But that underestimates not just Blair and Dr Mowlam but also their understanding of the for-midable obstacles in the way of even of a brand new govern-ment trying to make a fresh start. It's true that if Labour had a big majority, it could not be held prisoner by the Ulster Unionists in Parliament. But that's not the Unionists' only leverage: inclusive talks mean little or nothing if they don't include the Ulster Umonists. And while the UUP leader, David Trimble, has not gone as far as the DUP's lan Paisley in

installed at Hillsborough as a

real live Secretary of State? But she has dropped few, if any, clangers in Northern Ireland; given the extreme sensitivity of every political statement there,

that alone is quite an achieve-ment. And she has also impressed by her energy, her seriousness, her detailed under-standing of the brief's mind-bending complexities and the frequency of her trips to the province. It's now pretty well certain that Blair would indeed amount her, and combably size.

series of formidable conditions, including decommissioning of arms as a precondition of talks.

saying he would never sit down

with Sinn Fein, he has set a

The Ulster Unionists' strength - relative to that of the DUP - after the general election, and in the local elections which follow, could yet decide how full a part Mr Trimble's party will play in the talks. The more ground Pais-ley gains, the hieaker the outlook may prove to be. Drumcree looms in July, and while yes-terday's peaceful march in the Lower Ormean was a tentative sign of hope, it could mm once again into a show of the sort of Orange strength that could yet be deployed if a Labour government were ever tempted to bypass them: the party's folk memory is still haunted by the 1974 Ulster Workers' strike that was faced by Merlyn Rees three months after coming into office. Nor are the republicans' intea-tions utterly clear, for all Mr McGuinness's smooth words yesterday. Some ministers had expected the IRA to declare a ceasefire a few months before polling day to put a fragile gov-ernment on the spot: the fact that they didn't may indicate that there is still a powerful faction in favour of shunning dialogue.

One possibility is that the IRA will wait to. see, if Labour wins, what Dr Mowlam does about potential confidence-building issues dear to nationalist hearts - such as transfers of prisoners, responsibility for Bloody Sunday, and the detention of Roisin McAliskey - all of which she has said she will consider in office. And even if they call a ceasefire after that, it could be that, as the events of the past three years demonstrate, this would be only the ginning. The only certainty is this: oot just Dr Mowlam but Tony Blair is committed to trying to revive the peace process. Blair speaks about it more in private than in public, but it is now clear that he sees Northern Ireland among his highest priorities. That much John

# New crime law, old police culture

by Patricia Wynn Davies

"completely different mindser". That was how Dr Eric Shepherd, the forensic psychologist who first cast doubt on the Bridgewater murder convictions, last week summed up the real, as opposed to the theoretical, world of police investigations.

Dr Shepherd, an adviser to both police and defence

lawyers, was spotlighting the potentially lethal mixture of the prevailing police culture and the new regime for restricting the disclosure of evidence in the 1996 Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act, which comes into effect today, following the minimum of opposition in Parliament. The biggest test for the members of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, the new miscarriage of justice watchdog which also begins work today, is whether they understand that cultural message. And the higgest test of that will be their approach to re-investigations, particularly the extent to which they will be content to allow the police to continue investigating

Just as the Bridgewater case showed just how poor successive police inquiries were at uncovering a miscarriage of justice, the 1996 Act (which in most cases lets the investigating police officer decide what is dis-closed to defence solicitors) is a potent argument for a fun-damental change of attitude. The members of the commission should consider what Dr Shepherd and Roger Ede, sec-retary to the Law Society's criminal law committee, have to say about the cultural question.

The community and the courts," they write in their book Active Defence, published last week, "are led to believe that the evidence presented in cases by the prosecution, and upon which they rely, is the product of a quality investigative service rendered by police officers, civilian support staff and forensic scientists who are professionally trained, who are subject to supervision and quality controls, who have open minds, who are committed to exposing to the prosecution and the defence the gaps and anomalies in the police investigation, the police representation of the case and the prosecution evi-dence. The reality does not support the belief. What is presented to the court in all too many cases is a complex, collaborative illusion."

many police officers and even forensic scientists are untrained for their investigative tasks, there is no real supervision, there are no real quality cootrols, and there are strong group pressures on police officers to do what they have always done - attach criminality to the suspect in the frame. In a climate where "zero tolerance" extends only to criminality, and not to deficiencies in

The truth, they say, is that



Has the new miscarriage of justice watchdog got what it takes to carry out its own investigations into misconduct?

reason to expect that culture to re-investigation to dismantle a Elks is a solicitor who used to change. The 1996 Act - the result of one of the most effective lobbying campaigns by the police - leaves officers to make key decisions about the disclosure of material to the defence at the very time they are building a case for the prosecution. But the mindset in the police station, which views the defence as a hindrance to the conviction of the guilty rather than a safeguard against getting it wrong, is very different.

Because the Act ignores the real world of police investigations, in effect expecting a police officer to reveal weaknesses in his own case, a supine Criminal Cases Review Commission could ensure that future miscarriages go undetected. So will the commission be content to simply hand over investigations to police afficers? Or will it appreciate that requiring

case constructed by their peers calls for a change in the professional habits of a lifetime?

Do the commission's members accept that it is the systemic failure by the police and the prosecution to disclose evidence inconvenient to their case which has caused the most serious miscarriages of justice over the past 20 years? Are they alive to the re-introduction of a oew culture of non-disclosure? With one or two exceptions -

such as Dr James MacKeith, consultant forensic psychiatris at the Maudsley hospital and an expert in false confessions - the membership of the commissioo has not inspired confidence. The chairman, Sir Frederick Crawford, is a former plasma scientist and university administrator and is probably better known for his Fiona King is a former senior the justice system, there is no police officers conducting a Crown prosecutor, Laurence

and former member of the Police Complaints Authority. Leonard Leigh is professor of criminal law at the London School of Economics. The Hnmc Office was pleased to announce the inclusion of three "lay" members when the long-awaited list was unveiled to January. What

experience will they bring? Edward Weiss chairs Lloyd's Syndicate Loss Reviews and is a former director of Chubb, the security firm; Anthony Foster is a former chief executive of IC1 Chlorochemicals; Barry Capoo is a recently retired council chief executive. No one is questioning the integrity of any of the members, but where is the expert for the defence?

How many of the members are aware of the huge disparity in resources and investigative powers between the police and the defence? How many understand the increasing difficulty in getting adequate legal aid to

deconstruct the case theory? Paradoxically, one solution would be to take a cue from the world from which some of these commission members are drawn. When things go awry in the City, the Department of Trade and Industry can appoint senior QCs and accountants, equipped with powers tn demand answers, to investigate alleged wrong-duings. The appointment of similarly armed senior barristers and solicitors, independent of the police nr any other government agency, to ask the questions would be one way of huilding confidence in the system. But the commission's news release last week did oot make encouraging reading, highlighting those powers it does not have, hut which the police could exercise on its behalf, rather than those it has.

Yet we have now a machinery for examining miscarriages that for the first time is independent of government. The commission will be empowered to use the police for a re-investigation, but not obliged to; it will be able to exert, if it chooses, hands-oo control of a re-investigation; it has wide powers, if it chooses to use them, to call for the disclosure of material, which the defence and even the prosecutioo may never have seen - and disclose it to the applicant.

Here is the opportunity for an independent body to effec-tively challenge the deep resistance of the system to admitting it may have been wroog. And sioce the passing of its mirror image, the 1996 Act, never has there been such a clear need in do so. Has this commission got what it takes?

# The voters of Tatton can now judge

uppose that Neil Hamilton, sup-ported by his local Conservative association, does not yield to pressure to retire and actually fights the general election in the Tattoo constitucocy. And suppose that the Labour and the Liberal Democratic candidates really do withdraw in favour of a single, independent, antisleuze candidate, as they promise to do. Can we imagine what such an election would be like?

Mr Hamilton's first instinct, I assume, would be to try to conduct a normal campaign. He would stand pat on the Conservative manifesto, he would extol the Government's economic success and he would demonstrate the virtues of Tory policies for law and order, education, Europe and so on. He would say that the Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates had stood down precisely because they feared debating such

I cunnot helieve that such an approach would carry Mr Hamilton very far. The electors of Tatton can learn as much as they wish to know about these matters through the national media. Their response to Mr Hamilton would surely be "Yes, but and so he would straightaway lose the first skirmish and be forced to fight on the ground bis enemies had

Mr Hamilton would then, I imagine, continue with his tactic of complaining about the way in which his evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, had been presented by The Guardian. He would repeatedly state that The Guardian's reports were

HATTER BETTER



Andreas Whittam Smith

An antisleaze candidate should concentrate on the two charges that do not require the evidence of Mohamed Al Fayed

"selective and were manipulated to show my guilt", and that the tran-scripts of Mohamed Al Fayed'a evidence indicated that he was "motivated by hatred for me and revealed that there is oo iodependent corroboration for his allegations".

He would rail at trial by oewspapers and call in evidence the entrapment of fellow Tory MP Piers Merchant by a 17-year-old night club hostess, financed by The Sun. Mr Hamiltoo would position himself as the victim of injustice calling for impartial treatment. But would an appeal for fair play

work? After all, it is commonplace that when serious accusations are made, the person concerned may have to stand aside. In the case of criminal charges, the accused may have to await trial in prison; and where professional misconduct is alleged, the person concerned is usually suspended from his or her duties while an investigation is carried out. Moreover, Mr Hamilton has taken steps to correct the record. In the Sunday Telegraph at the weekend, he published excerpts from the evidence given to Sir Gordon Downey by his chief accuser. Mr Fayed, which he believed were favourable to his cause. Two leaks may not make a right, but again I fancy the electors of Tatton will respond to Mr Hamilton: "Yes, but....

Pretty quickly, therefore, Mr Hamilton would find that the election cam-

paign in Tatton would focus on the transcripts of his and Mr Fayed's evidence to the Downey inquiry.

Where would an ann-sleaze candidate lay most emphasis? Probably not

(repeat, not) on the most harid aspect

of the alleged transactions between Mr Hamilton and Mr Payed: whether or oot cash was passed in envelopes stuffed with £50 notes. Mr Hamilton says that Mr Fayed and three aides are lying when they say this. The electors of Tatton would not know whom to

Instead, an anti-sleaze candidate should concentrate on two, simple charges-that the Tattoo MP had lied to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and that he had engaged in a fraud at the expense of the Inland Revenue. Either one is so devastating, if true, that everything else could be ignored. Neither requires the evidence of Mr Payed. On the question of the lie, we have The Guardian's transcript of Mr Hamilton's evidence to Sir Gordon and Mr Hamiltoo's letter to The Times last Saturday, in which he adds statement he made that The

Guardian omitted. A Cabinet Office memo notes that Mr Hamilton has given Mr Heseltine "an absolute assurance that he had no financial relationship with Mr Greer [the political lobbyist] and the President of the Board of Trade (at the time, Mr Heseltine] has accepted

Counsel put to Mr Hamilton that he did have such a financial relationship. Mr Hamilton replied: "I did not mention the commission payments when I spoke to Mr Heseltine ... politics is a rough game ... I knew that if there were to be another cause for adverse media comment against me ... it could be used as a very big stick with which to beat me and to cause my resignation to take place." What did fraud?

The Guardian miss out? Mr Hamilton's further statement that he was "satisfied in my own mind that there was no deliberate misleading of "Mr Heseltine.

So there we have it: Mr Hamiltoo misled the Deputy Prime Minister, but not "deliberately". He was either a fool or a liar.

As to whether a tax fraud was committed, The Guardian extracts indicate that the MP's tax return for 1988-89 showed as an expense (ie an offset) the cost of a flight (£1,430) which in fact had been paid not by him but by Mr Greer. What was Mr Hamilton's response? Perhaps his weakest in the whole saga: "my accountant ... prepares my tax return". Yes, but the taxpayer must sign the tax return, stating that the "information ! have given is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief". Mr Hamilton knows how solemn is this undertaking: he trained as a barrister specialising in

In my picture of the Tatton election, with an anti-sleaze candidate in the field against the sitting MP, the issue of whether bribes were taken to represent certain people in Parliament and in their dealings with government would remain in the background. That question could wait until publication of the full Downey report and deliberation by the oew House of Commons. The anti-sleaze candidate would not seek to usurp that process, nor wish to appear as if he or she were the candidate of Mr Fayed. Instead, equally crucial questions relating to the honesty of Mr Hamilton would be tackled head-on: is he a liar? is he a

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prosecutor and former govern-

ment lawyer, John Leckey has

been HM Coroner for Greater

Belfast since 1992; Jill Fort, a

barrister, is an immigration adju-dicator and chairman of a VAT

tribunal; Baden Skitt was an

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Metropolitan Police; John Knox,

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tor of the Serious Fraud Office

until last year; Karamjit Singh is

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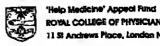
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## Shireen Akbar

Visitors to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London this summer will experience a stunning new creation; a giant Mughal pavilion of emhroi-dered panels made by groups of women inspired by the muse-um's South Asian collection. The creator of this project, Shireen Akbar, will be rememhered hoth for a unique range of artistic achievements and for the love and pride with which she nurtured and motivated South Asian women in Britain.

She was at home in three cities - London, Dhaka and Calcutta - and in three languages: Bengali. English and Urdu. She revelled in her internationalism and the cultural fusion which she fostered. Her life and work was a celebration of the richness of South Asian - especially Bengali - art and culture, not as a pure and closed form but interacting with, changing and being changed by, other cultures.

She was born Shireen Hasib. in Calcutta, a member of the cultured Bengali Muslim familv which also produced Begum Rokeya Hussain (1880-1923), a pioneering writer and worker for women's emancipation in Bengal, Rokeya's legacy underpinned Shireen's fierce commitment to justice and to women. In 1957 the family moved to East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, where Shireen completed her MA and taught at the University of Dhaka until she came to Britain in 1968

to study English at Cambridge. After teaching in schools and adult education Akbar was employed by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) youth service in 1978 as a youth and community worker with Bengali girls and young women in Tower Hamlets, where her vision and powers of alchemy have made perhaps the most lasting impact.

Her highly original and inled her to develop a focus on arts and a series of increasingly amwith the British art world. The first of these was an embroidery project through which groups of girls created glorious embroidered banners of the Bengali alphabet, displayed in the Whitechapel Gallery, in east London, early in 1979.

Recognising that in a racist climate the cultural heritage of the East End's growing South Asian community was being undervalued, Akbar established a learning resource for ILEA schools. Travelling to remote villages in India and Bangladesh she purchased a remarkable collection of traditional household items and toys from rural markets and craftspeople. The artefacts inspired pottery and other art work by children of all ethnic backgrounds in Tower Hamlets schools and led to an exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute in 1983.

Akbar worked closely with the Whitechapel Gallery in 1979 to mount an "Arts of Bengal" exhibition which gave a new perspective to the presence of the migrant community from Bangladesh. In 1988 she creat-ed "Woven Air", the exhibition at the Whitechapel of woven and embroidered textiles from Bangladesh. "Woven Air" both celebrated the ancient traditions of Jamdani muslin weaving and Naksha Kantha (traditional quilts) embroidery and brought them up to date with the presence in the gallery of working weavers from Bangladesh.

As well as working with curators and collectors around the world to create this exhibition, Akbar ensured that local children gained as much as possihle from their introduction to the arts of Bangladesh. A book of poems, Kanthas in My Head (1988), produced by children from a local primary school showed how the embroideries had inspired them with love and respect both for their parents' homeland and for their mothers' crafts.

Alongside the Whitechapel novative approach to the work exhibition Akbar arranged a selling exhibition at Liberty's, enabling the work of the women's hitious collaborative ventures co-operative with sbe was in-linking the Asian community volved in Bangladesh to gain international recognition and thus more women to become self-sufficient.

elf-sufficient.

The next great adventure nities. Joining the museum in a new life, sustained by the supThe exquisite panels which will
the week of a devastating cyport of her daughter and her form the tent have been em-



Akbar with visiting schoolchildren in the Nehru Gallory of Indian Art at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London

clone which killed thousands of

delta dwellers in Bangladesh,

she made an instant impact by

organising an evening sitar con-

cert to fund a cyclone shelter.

On this occasion, as in so many

she created an atmosphere of

Shireen Akbarwas a beauti-

ful woman who loved to dress

well, making the most of the tex-

tiles with which she worked and

enjoying dramatic jewellery.

Her fragile beauty never hid the fire within her, whose sparks in-

spired and sometimes alarmed

those around her. She had au-

tocratic charm which she used

to great effect to bring ber ex-

traordinary dreams into reality. When her marriage ended

Akbar undertook the painful

but creative process of building

of the gatherings she organise

enchantment.

Photograph: V & A

many loving friends around the world. This journey was interrupted when she developed east cancer in early 1994. With characteristic courage she spoke of her experience in Bengali newspapers and television, determined to increase Asian women's awareness of hreast cancer and treatments and break the stigma of "women's cancer". She fought hard to recover and was full of life and wit,

oiects and plans. .. The last of Shireen Akbar's magical achievements, the Mughal Tent project, hrought together all the strands of her life: her passions for Indian art and cultural synthesis; her commitment to women; ber determination to achieve the seemingly impossible and ber ability to break boundaries.

broidered by women's groups from Tower Hamlets to Somerset, Madras to South Africa. Many have been created by groups of South Asian women with whom Shireen Akbar. worked at the museum, most of whom had never entered such a place before. Akbar inspired them to see the relevance of the Nehru Gallery's collection of South Asian art and artefacts to their own lives and identities and to create their own richly worked and beautiful pieces in response. The result is a unique celebration of women, life and

> Caroline Adams and Annie Rae

Shireen Nishat Hasib, educationist: born Calcutta 30 July 1944; married 1968 Anwar Akbar (one daughter; marriage dissolved); died London 7 March 1997.

## George Milner

George Milner was a leading an-alytical chemist who made out-standing contributions to his discipline both scientifically and professionally. Most of his career was spent in public service, mainly in the sphere of atomic energy, where he became head in 1958 of the Actinide Analy-sis Group at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment,

until his retirement in 1983. At Harwell Milner led a team of analysts that built an in-ternational reputation for the quality and innovativeness of its work in the exacting field of atomic energy. His judgement and meticulousness set the stan-dards which led to success in characterising the materials essential to the developing

industry. Not only was it essential to analyse chemically many proto-type nuclear fuels, before and after irradiation, it was also important to characterise the wide variety of metals, alloys, ceramics and fluids used in the construction and operation of nuclear reactors and plant. So-Intions were needed that could be applied, with safety, to the analysis of radioactive materi-als, including thorium, uranium, plutonium and higher activides and involved operations in glove boxes and high-activity shielded cells.

As analytical chemistry advanced technically, the methods and instrumentation introduced into the Actinide Analysis Group kept pace with modern standards, ever improving over the years, which produced a sound foundation that lives on today in the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and

is fledgling, privatised offsboot, AEA Technology plc. Milner's personal forte was in the field of electrochemical analysis, particularly the deelopment of polarography and coulometry, electrical methods of identifying elements and measuring them quantitively. While the former has been largely displaced by more mod-ern methods of trace element analysis, the latter continues to be an important technique for the high accuracy determination of plutonium which features today in the control of nuclear materials for International Safe-

guards purposes. In 1957, Milner published an authoritative and comprehensive book, Principles and Applications of Polarography and Other Related Techniques. He also co-authored Coulometry in Analytical Chemistry (1967), with the late G. Phil member of his team.

He took advantage of spectropbotometry (a method of measurement using colour) in its early days for trace element analysis, as well as, separation methods based on solvent extraction and chromatography as they developed. While the confidential nature of his work often prevented its publication openly, his researches on the analysis of exotic and less common elements appeared in relevant scientific journals, and their value won him awards and built his acknowledged reputa-

tion as a leader in his field. Milner was the son of a master builder. He was born in 1918, at Rossington in West York-shire, and was brought up in

Benno Premsela, window dresser, died 27 March, aged 76. Gave over the windows of the Amsterdam store De Bijenkorf as a platform for local photographers and artists. An early

nearby Hatfield. He was educated at Doncaster Grammar School followed by Sheffield University where he gained a first class degree in science. His interest in both chemistry and physics led to Membership of the Institute of Physics in 1947 and establishment as a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1948.

(hthere)

During the Second World War, Milner worked for the Admiralty in the new Bragg Laboratory of the Naval Ordnance Inspection Lahoratory in Sheffield, applying himself to the development of new approaches in the analysis of metals and niloys.

In 1946 he was appointed as a Lecturer in Chemistry at what is now Hull University. There he aided Professor Brynmor Jones, who later became Vice-Chancellor, to set up the chemistry laboratories. His association with atomic energy began in 1948 when he returned to the Bragg Laboratory to work on analytical developments for the national programme. As a consequence, in 1951 he joined the Analytical Chemistry Branch of the Chemistry Division at AERE, Harwell. He travelled widely

presenting the work of his group to scientific bodies here and abroad, building his in-ternational reputation. His eminence as an analytical chemist was also recognised by the Society for Analytical Chemistry in 1972 when they awarded him their prestigious Gold Medal, their highest accolade. The profession of analytical

chemistry owes much to Milner. Up to the amalgamation of the Society of Analytical Chemistry with the Chemical Society in 1975, be served the former both as its Treasurer and its final President. He played a central role in the amalgamation process that unified the nation's societies devoted to

chemistry.

During the initial "trial" period, the SAC continued to exist long enough to celebrate its Centenary under Milner's presidency. On final amalgamation, be ensured that the SAC's special responsibility for promoting Analytical Chemistry
was guaranteed in the future by transferring its assets into the new Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund. This now supports much university research, as well as the promotion of the profession, to its lasting benefit.

On the formation of the Analytical Division of the new amaigamated society. was invited to serve as its first President. After retirement he continued to give voluntary service to the profession and to the end was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Analytical Methods Trust.

As a young man, Milner was an active sportsman representing his school and university at rughy foothall, and playing squash and tennis. In later years, he found relaxation through walking and gardening. J. W. McMillan

George William Colin Milner, analytical chemist: born Rossington. West Yorkshire 20 January 1918; married 1947 Irene Cressey (one daughter); died Abingdon, Oxfordshire 16 February 1997.

Carroll James Jnr, disc jockey, died Silver Spring, Maryland, 24 March, aged 60. The first disc jockey to play a Beatles record on US radio: "1 Want to Hold Your Hand", on WWDC, 17 December 1963.

## Otto John

It was something of an international sensation when Otto John turned up on 11 August 1954 in East Berlin.

He had gone missing on 20 July while attending a commemoration of the anti-Hitler July plot of 1944. Good-looking, well-huilt, smartly tailored, charming and blond, John, then 45 years old, looked like a 1930s film actor. He was in fact the head of West Germany's internal security organ, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz or BfV.) At a press conference held in East Berlin John attacked West Germany, warning that the Nazis were again in the ascendancy.

His outpourings were a hitter blow to Konrad Adenauer's government in Bonn, at a time when many abroad were still suspicious of the rapidly developing West German state, However, they were very useful to the Soviets, less sure of themselves after the death of Stalin in 1953 and hoping to gather to- He had spoken at the press con- titude to an anti-Hitler gov-



Photograph: Camera Press

gether anti-Adenauer "national" conservatives to opt for a more pro-Soviet solution to the division of Germany. In December 1955, John reappeared in the West claiming he had escaped. He also claimed he had heen drugged by the West Berlin medical practitioner Wolfgang Wohlgemuth and tak-cn to East Berlin against his will.

ference because he feared for erament. He was certainly a Field Marshal von Manstein. was tried for treason and sentenced, in December 1956, to four years' imprisonment.

was "Traffic Art", an exhibition

of rickshaw paintings at the Mu-seum of Mankind in 1988. The

streets of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, although choking under

traffic fumes, are a mobile gallery of naive art. The city's

rickshaws are decorated with

richly inventive paintings: tigers

and jackals in scenes of politi-

cal allegory; reflections of glob-alisation from Tower Bridge to

Manhattan; rural idylls and film

fantasies. In 1994 the exhibition

travelled to Fukuoka Art Mu-

seum in Japan, where Shireen

In 1991 Akbar was appoint-

ed by the Victoria and Albert

Museum as South Asian Arts

Education Officer, working to build links between the mu-

seum's Nehru Gallery and

Britain's South Asian commu-

Akbar acted as guest curator.

Born in Marburg in 1909, the son of a minor civil servant, Otto John studied law in Berlin in the 1920s. His talent and an ability to make contacts with the right people led to his ap-pointment as a leading legal adviser to the German airline Lufthansa in 1937. Although a ladies' man, John

did not marry until 1949, when he married a singer seven years his senior. Thus he was free in the Nazi era to pursue his risky political interests. John and his hrother Hans John, also a lawyer, who worked in the Air Ministry, were involved in the anti-Nazi military resistance before the Second World War. Otto used his position at Lufthansa to fly to neutral Spain and Portugal to sound out the Western Allies on their at-

his safety. John's version of brave man who risked his life on events was not helieved and be any number of occasions relaying the messages from the plotters to the Western powers. When the putsch against Hitler finally took place, on 20 July 1944, Otto John managed to leave the headquarters of the plotters in Bendler Strasse.

Berlin, just before the revolt col-

lapsed. Four days later he got

to neutral Spain on a Lufthansa flight - his brother was not so lucky. Later, under the name of Oskar Jürgens, John worked for the British Secret Intelligence Service. He was flown from Lisbon to Britain where, unknown to John, his controller, Kim Philby, was working for the Soviet Union. Philby, following Soviet instructions, had no interest

succeeding. John helped the British interrogating German officers at the Bridgend prison camp. In 1949, he assisted the British in

in the German resistance's

This placed him on the blacklist of the surviving Wehrmacht officers, including General Reinhard Gehlen. In the same year the new President of the Federal Republic (West Germany), Professor Theodor Heuss, urged John to help in rehuilding his shattered country by working for the new state.

With British influence being hrought in play, John was ap-pointed President of the BfV in 1950. Gehlen was already installed as an American protégé in charge of collecting external intelligence material, especially in the Soviet bloc. Geblen was a professional, having worked as head of the German army's intelligence service on the East front. John was an amateur who wanted to avoid his office becoming a kind of secret police, let alone another Gestapo.

John soon had a reputation for being a dilettante and a the controversial prosecution of a blind eye to dossiers on many

ed the July plotters as traitors who had stabbed the fighting troops in the back, although later they were to be regarded as heroes who had saved the honour of Germany. After his release from prison, John chose to live in Austria for

former Nazis who were re-

cruited to construct the new

state and its economy. Many in

Germany at that time regard-

the remaining years of his life, all the time protesting his innocence. On five occasions he sought to get German courts to clear his name. His last attempt was in 1995. He failed and, officially at any rate, died a traitor. The full truth we are never likely to know. Neither the statements of former KGB officers nor the opening of the East German archives have revealed the full story.

David Childs Otto John, secret agent: born Marburg an der Lahn, Germany 1909; married 1949; died Innsbruck, Austria 26 March 1997. | activist for Dutch gay rights.

### Michael Braun

The launch of the Titanic musical on Broadway has already in-spired a flotilla of showhiz folklore which the unexpected death of Michael Braun joins. Braun, found dead in his apartment on the first day of rehearsals, was prominently featured on the musical's advertising as one of its two producers but, if his exact role now seems ambiguous, it is nothing compared to the machinations of Braun's own mythic existence.

A Zelig of the counter-culture, Braun might have copyrighted the phrase "Been there, done that". Whilst he had lived everywhere and seemingly met, interviewed or cohabited with every famous figure of the

late 20th century, he also had specific claims to fame. The Beatles penned "Paperback Writer" about him, he was Roman Polanski's companion and comforter during the long evening when he was called from California to be told of Sharon Tate's murder, the producer Julia Phillips (author of You'll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again) considered him the most enigmatic, privately wealthy man in Hollywood, but he was also a homeless academic, penniless flaneur and eclectic expert on everything from international finance to 19th-century English literature. Braun was born in New York City, the son of a lawyer (sub-

sequently never his favoured hreed), and may have attended the prestigious Walden School though a Bronx high school seems more probable. He had an affection for Ivy League education not necessarily dependent on his own attendance, for though he supposedly graduat-ed from Harvard in 1958, that institution's records seem patchy on the point. Interviewing the Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver in his African exile, Braun made clear his belief in the 1vy League's redemptive potential, repeatedly exclaiming: "You don't have to do this, you could still get into Harvard." Likewise it is not clear whether his son attended Oxford, or exists.

What can be authenticated is that Braun first travelled the world as cabin boy and found himself in London in the early Sixties as assistant to Stanley Kubrick, who had moved there to make Lolita and Dr Strangelove. He then started to work as a journalist for the Sunday Times and the Observer at the height of their reputation, and in this capacity followed a new band called the Beatles on their first British tour. Braun hecame friendly with them and published the earliest Beatles book, the tour diary Love Me Do!, republished by Penguin in 1995.

Remaining part of the British music scene and attendant "Swinging London" phenome-

na. Braun started working for Roman Polanski, though as always his precise office remained undefined. As a globetrotting writer

Braun covered all the quintes-sential trouble spots of the era, from Vietnam to South Africa, Russia to Cuba, but hardly limited himself to war and revolu-tion, hecoming friendly with Borges and Nabokov as well as countless stars in the entertainment firmament. This led to his relocation in 1970s Los Angeles, a dangerous time and place for anyone genetically inclined to recreational narcoics. During that legendary coke decade Braun was busy, or not, with a quintessential project of the period, producing a film, The Secret Life of Plants (1975). Stevie Wonder's part in this was described as: "the most curious album in Wonder's career, ostensibly a soundtrack for a film few people saw, if indeed

it was ever released". Seventies Hollywood may now be the stuff of glamorous nostalgia but it was less constructive for those living there, and Braun's health - not to mention reputation - was probably permanently dented by this epoch. Braun returned to New York, living by all ac-counts in a bomeless shelter whilst fraternising with some of the wealthiest American heirs and pursuing his endless intel-

dovich Landan, physicist, 1968; Max

lectual interests, Proust reading groups, political activism or the structure and history of confidence tricks. Braun had a strong attraction

to those whose personal myth-ology was not limited by prosaic

hiographical fact. Jerzy Kosin-

ski was a favourite, and some of his friends were, technically, hla-tant criminals. Leaving behind a tangled tagliatelle of contractual mysteries, including whether he was 55 or 60, Braun was buried in his uniquitous sweat clothes surrounded by chanting Buddhist monks from his sister's ashram. Appropri-ately enough several fist fights broke out round the body of this arch manipulator, masterful



provocateur and "unknown egend in his time".

Adrian Dannatt Michael Braun, journalist and producer: born New York 28 April 1936; died New York 27 January 1997.

Announcements for Gazette alRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Denths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DE, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or Exced to 0171-293 2019, and are charged at 56.50 a line IVAT extra). OTHER Gazette autoonecements inotices, functions, Forthnouncements motices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faced) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Changing of the Guard The Homebuld Cavairy Mounted Re-gounds the Oncep's Life Guard at Horse C Birthdays

Mr George Baker, actor and writer, 66; Mr Cynog Dafis MP, 59; Mr David Davies, chairman and chief executive, Johnson Matthey, 57: The Rev Norman Drummond, Scottish Governor, BBC, and Chairman, Broadcasting Council for Scotland, 45; Mr Alex Falconer, MEP, 57; Professor Roderick Floud, Provost, London Guild-ball University, 55; Sir Anthony Gill, chairman, Docklands Light Raliway, 67; Mr David Gower, cricketer, 40; Sir Nicholas Henderson, former diplomat, 78; Miss Gaie Johnson Houghton, jockey, 56; The Earl of Ilchester, managing director, Coun-ty Border Newspapers, 77; Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, professor emeritus, Department of Nursing, Manchester University, 71; Professor

Maxwell McGlashan, chemist, 73; Miss Ali MacGraw, actress, 59; Sir William Macpherson of Chury, for-mer High Court judge, 71; Mr William Manchester, writer and Pro-fessor Emeritus, Wesleyan University, 75; Maj-Gen Giles Mills, former resident Governor, Ibwer of London, 75: Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, historian, 79; Mrs Marie Patterson, former TUC president, 63; Miss Jane Powell, singer and actress, 68; Mr Charles H. Price, former US ambassador to the UK, 66; Mr Steve Dasador to the UK, 66; Mr Steve-Race, musician and broadcaster, 76; Dr Richard Repp, Master of St Cross College, Oxford, 61; Miss Debbie Reynolds, actress, 65; Mr Bryan Robertson, writer, historian and broadcaster, 72; Mr Arnold Sidebottom, cricketer, 43; Miss Rose-

mary Spencer, Ambassador to the Netherlands, 56; Mr Leonard van Geest, chairman, Littlewoods, 47; Mr Dafydd Wigley MP, 54, Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams, former President, Royal College of Pathologists, 68.

Anniversaries

Births: Abbé Prévost (Antoine-François Prévost d'Exiles) writer, 1697; Luigi Schiavonetti, engraver, 1765; Prince Otto Eduard Leopold von Bismarck, statesman, 1815; Ed-win Austin Abbey, painter, 1852; Fer-ruccio Benvennto Busoni, musician, 1866; Edmond-Engène Alexis Rostand, playwright, 1868; Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninov, composer, 1873; Edgar Richard Horatlo Wallace, journalist and thriller writer,

1875; Lon (Alonso) Chaney, actor, 1883; Wallace Beery, actor, 1885; Baroness Clementine Ogilvy Spencer-Churchill (Hozler), 1885; Leonard Bloomfield, Hinguist, 1887; Dame Cicely Courmendge, actress, 1893; Edward Tisse, cinematic director, 1897. Deaths: Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen of France and of England, 1204; Robert III, King of Scotland, 1406; Sigismund I, King of Poland, 1548; Dr John Langhorne, writer, cleric and translator, 1779; John Frederick Denison Maurice. John Frederick Denison Maurice, John Frederick Denison Maurice, theologian and founder of Christian Socialism, 1872; Andreas Achenbach, landscape and marine painter, 1910; Ex-Emperor Karl Franz Josef of Anstria, 1922; John Afkinson Hobson, comomist, 1940; Ferenc Molnar, playwight, 1952; Lev Davi-

Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculp-tor, 1976. On this day: Britain declared war on Prussia, 1806; the title "Commonwealth of Australia" was adopted, 1891; the Territorial Army was founded, 1908; Old Age pensions were first paid (to British subjects over the age of 70), 1909; the Royal Air Force came halo being as a separate arm, 1918; Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years imprisonment, 1924; a Hebrew University was inaugumed by Lord Balfour on Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, 1925; persecution of the Jews in Germany began, 1933; London's Green Balt legislation came into being, 1935; the United States recognised the the Franco gov-ernment in Spain, 1939; the Battle of Okinawa began when US troops

landed there, 1945; electricity unlanded there, 1945; electricity un-dertakings in Britain, both private and municipal, were nationalised as the British Electricity Anthority, 1947; the Soviet Union began a land blockade of Berlin, 1948; Newfoundland, up to this date a separate Dominion, be-came the 10th province of Canada, 1949; the world's first meteorological satellite, Tiros I, was launched by the United States, 1960; in Manila, a disastrous fire destroyed houses covering a wide area, rendering 70,000 homeless, 1971; 590 US prisoners were released by the North Vietnamese, 1973; in Britain, Pur-chase Tax and Selective Employment Taxwere abolished, and Value Added Tax (VAT) took their place, 1973;

boundary changes were made in England and Wales, which affected

nearly all counties, 1974; the military side of the Warsaw Pact was dis-banded, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Catharine of Palma, St Gilbert of Caithness, St Hugh of Bonnevaux, St Hugh of Grenoble, St Macarlus tite Wonderworker, St Melito and St Valery or Walaricus.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Drawings (i): drawing in the High Renaissance". 1pm. British Museum: Barrie Cook, "Princely Gifts: coins for presentation and display", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Susan Morris and Alfred Bradley, "April Fool! An Appropriate Programme"

1.10pm.

# In the company of fledglings and old family firms off the main Exchange

The killing of the 4.2 share trading facility was one of the more astonishing Stock Exchange decisions of recent Community in the community of the community of

· Milner

Suddenly a range of companies, which had in-habited the long-established backwater share market, and despite streouous efforts by its thousands of investors faced the prospect of being cast into difficult.

dealt extensively in the 4.2 market – football clubs were his family's speciality – realised the Stock Exchange had created a share-dealing gap which had in be filled. He produced Ofex - Off

the more astonishing Stock
Exchange decisions of recent

Can.

To many private investors
Ofex is a mystery. It is difficult for anyone who does not have access to a securities screen to follow prices. And keeping in touch with the news flow, own information service, is

the prospect of being cast into a share wilderness.

Cometh the crisis, cometh the man. John Jenkins, an old-fashioned jobber who had dealt extensively in the 4.2 market—football clubs were constituent, values to the was another to make the market upheaval which included the Stock Exchange launching AIM, the Alternative Investment Market to ablished family-run brewers about. A mixture stablished busine constituent, values to the was another to make the was another to make the switch. Its capitalisation is financial information was another to make the switch. Its capitalisation is financial information was another to make the switch. Its capitalisation is just what Ofex is about. A mixture stablished busine constituent, values to the constit replace the old Unlisted

Securities Market. Stock Exchange hopes, il-lustrating the need for a jumor

pily without one," was the blinkered view.

Well, National Parking Corporation, the National Car Parks and Green Flag group. begged to differ. It moved from 4.2 and is the biggest Ofex was another to make the believe it will emerge as a

AIM has certainly exceeded the front runners. But, like the need for a share-dealing main market, football clubs facility and brash, start-up facility and brash, start-up groups.



STOCK MARKET WEEK

### DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

In fifth place is Display IT, worth £85.5m, a young group offering share price and other conversion. It has 22 marfinancial information. Some kets.

The top companies display Until recently, old established family-run brewers about. A mixture of old, such as Shepherd Neame and established businesses where

Many Ofex companies are not for the squeamish; some constituents feel obliged to

issue wealth warnings in their prospectuses. Yet the fringe market has, so the passing of time has required the need for a share-dealing facility and brash, start-up groups.

The time may be a start and the start and

started to investigate a rip-roaring performance which sent the shares surging from a 27.5p placing to 275p.

Skynet, now much chastened, trades at 48p. Still. Ofex is bound to produce volatile share mov-ements. Motion Media, dev-

eloping video telephones, and Display IT are two active con-And last week Bestodds. offering a radio paging service for punters, jumped 1,300p to 4,300p on its début.

300p on its debut.

Mr Jenkins' company. JL

of the old Vaocouver don.

adventure - have prompted the Stock Exchange.
thoughts about defining and lt is surprising that the Ofex thoughts about defining and tightening up market conduct.

panies involved asked for their observations, will, it is hoped, strengtheo controls and add a little sophistication the old 4.2 market gave him a hoped, strengthco controls and add a little sophistication

and Futures Ambority (SFA) probably the Skynet mis- AIM under the supervision of success has not prompted im-

itations. There is obviously a A revised code of practice is being prepared. The new guidelines, soon to go through the consultative stage with market-users and committee involved asked for

to what, in some quarters, is shrewd insight into the needs still seen as something of a of the companies the Stock mayerick market on the lines Exchange decided to aban-

Jenkins, owns Ofex and provides the market-making facility, dealing with Stock Exchange firms. He keeps a firms the keep

Exchange – to accommodate the 4.2 waifs and strays.  Today the fledgling share market, started with 45 constituents, has a total capitalisation of more than \$2.300 with more than \$1.500 with more th	Rangers, the Glasgow ctub here Ioseph Lewis, the ahamas-based entrepreneur aid to be Britain's richest tan, has a 40 per cent therest, has a £210m value, and Arsenal comes in at Market Co. established by Alternative Investment Market in the Investment Market Co. established by Alternative Investment Market in the Investment Market in the Investment Market in the Investment Market in Investment Market Investment Inves	schange firms. He keeps a ght grip on proceedings. It is, focurse, not difficult to get a company on to the fringe market but a vetting panel—acconntant, solicitor, fund an ager and banker—examine new arrivals.  The growth of Ofex—and  officious bodies may get change it would not be surprising if attempts were made to bring Mr Jenkins creation into the fold.  There are already links; his market—making company is a stock Exchange member and jobs in a range of shares traded on the official market.
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# business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Myers set to buy Imry off Barclays

City Editor

One of Britain's leading prop-erty developers is set to cash in for a second time on the company that forced Barclays Bank to write-off a record £200m, victim of the higgest-ever default on a property loan.

Martin Myers is planning to buy Imry, one of the bestknown property developers to spring up in the late-1980s property boom, from Barclays, give him a further unspecified

eight years after netting £15m from its sale to a heavily indebted company backed by the bank. Barclays was left owning Imry after Marketchief, the company to which il lent £200m at the peak of the last proper-

ty cycle, collapsed.

As well as the £15m he made in 1989 when he and fellow developer Martin Landau sold Imry for £314m to Marketchief, Myers has struck a secret deal with the hank which will

payout on the final unwinding of lury, which he has managed throughout the various phases of its ownership. It is understood he will receive that incentive

even if he himself is the ultimate buyer of the company. If Mr Myers is successful in bis bid to buy what remains of Imry after the sale last month of most of its assets to Rodamco, a Dutcb property company. he may stand to make a third fortune from the company if be is successful in building it up and

stock market.

The proposed deal would give Mr Myers control of a planned £250m shopping cen-tre development in Southampton, that has yet to be built, and an investment portfolio worth an estimated £118m. Last month, Imry's other assets, including the Shires shopping centre in Leicester and Distillers House, an office block in Hammersmith, were sold to Rodamco for £249m.

Barclays, which has always made clear that it was only holding Imry for resale under the management of Mr Myers, was originally negotiating a sale of the whole of Imry to Rodamoo,

Dutch company's UK arm, pulled out only hours before the signing of final contracts. He is understood to have had second thoughts about the value of the Southampton development. Cheisfield, another

but Chris Bartram, bead of the

pulled out of negotiations after due diligence on the Southamp-

A Barclays spokesman would not comment on any incentive payments it plans to make to Mr fyers on the final disposal of linry nor on whether it was negotiating a sale to him. The bank simply said it was no longer in discussions with Rodamco. which was rumoured to have reopened negotiations over the Imry assets it failed to buy last potential buyer of Imry, also

bring to an end one of the bank's most embarrassing loans.
When Imry was sold to Markethief it was making profits of only £22m but Barclays was pre-

pared to lend £200m to an ac-

quisition vehicle that required

upwards of £50m a year simply

to service its debts. When the assumptions on which Marketchief was premised-falling interest rates and rising asset values which would payments - failed to materialise, the company went under. It had been set up with just £5m of equity and more than £300m of

Barclays was the most active bank in the fevered property lending market of the late 1980s, specialising in so-called relationship banking in which it hacked such individuals as Gerald Ronson, of Heron International and Speyhawk's Trevor

# Roller-coaster Dow leaves markets braced for turmoil

**David Usborne** and Tom Stevenson

Dealers are bracing themselves for volatile trading today after shares plunged again on Wall Street vesterday, Equities are expected to take their cue from a US market that returned from the shorter American Easter holiday as nervously as it bad entered the break.

After a 140-point fall last Thursday in New York, the Dow Jones index fell sharply in early trading yesterday as dealers hanked on another rise in American interest rates following last week's quarter-point. increase. The Dow was trading 107.64 points off at 6.632.95 in midday trading, having been 140.8 down at mid-morning.

Shares were especially nervous ahead of economic data this week that could shape perceptions about inflation, interest rates and the stock market's March survey of manufacturing Association of Purchasing Management will be published. while on Friday the Lahor Department releases the March,

employment report. The slide resumed immediately after the opening bell vesterday, leading to an early activation of computerised trading curbs on the New York

Stock Exchange. It was a similar story of pain elsewhere. The technology-beavy Nasdaq exchange was also burting badly yesterday - off more than 15 points at midday. The American Stock Exchange composite

index was also down 5.74. Nor was there much belp forthcoming from the bond market, where the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond, after steadying briefly in early trading, began to climb again. At last Thursday's close, the yield was at 7.08 per cent. its highest level since last

Once bond yields break through the 7 per cent barrier, investors often hegin looking towards the bond market and away from equities as the best place for their dollars. Most analysts continued to

attribute the onset of market turbulence to last week's Federal Reserve decision to raise future health. Later today the .short-lerm interest rates by a quarter-point. There is still conhe around the corner. Fuelling that worry was ad-

ditional data yesterday pointing to an overly healthy US economy. The Commerce Department reported that Americans' personal income jumped 0.9 per cent in February, the largest gain in nine months.

While spending grew by a

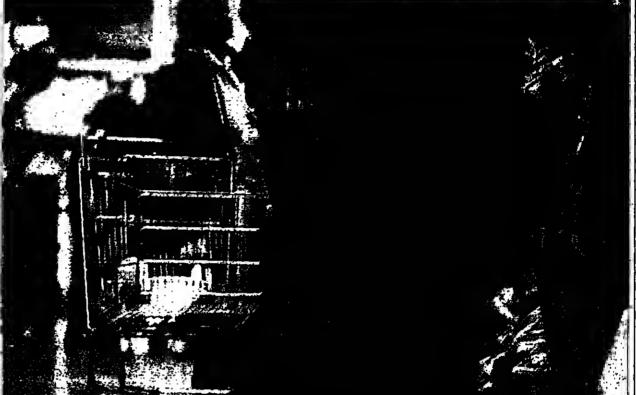
much more modest 0.3 per cent - the smallest gain since for six months - it came after a full l per cent surge in January.

The data will keep the market on the defensive," said Peter Cardillo of Westfalia Investments: "If the numbers continue to strengthen, it will raise questions about when the Federal Reserve will raise interest

rates again."
Michael Metz, chief investment strategist at Oppenheimer & Co. said earnings momentum going into the second quarter was another big worry for in-

"As the quarter begins, there will be a lot more concern that earnings will disappoint," Mr Metz said. "I think the market is in a difficult position in which the economy will do very well, interest rates will edge up, and carnings will not follow suit."

In spite of the darkening environment, most Wall Street observers continued to warn against over-reacting, "This has the excuse bas been interest rales," remarked Al Goldman of AG Edwards in New York. There has been a realisation the market was short-term overbought and due for a correction." Since its best-ever high of 7.085 on 11 March, the Dow had slipped about 6.5 per cent by



Sales roar ahead as balmy weather drives DIY fans barmy

Britain's leading DIY retailers have reported buoyant trading over the Easter weekend boosted by the good weather, B&Q, Sainsbury's Homebase and Do-It-All said sales had been better than expected with sales of lawn mowers, garden furniture and painting and decorating equipment all strong. Easter is always a key time for the DIY superstores though retailers had been cautious ahead of this weekend as Easter fell early. "All the signs are that we've had a very good Easter," said Ross McLaren, managing director of Sainsbury's Homebase.

"It has not been a record weekend but sales are up on last year. The good weather has certainly helped." B&Q said sales were up on last year with stores "fantastically busy". Do-It-All in Borehamwood said gardening sales were up 150 per cent on last year. B&Q opened 10 garden centres on Easter Sunday, exploiting loophole in the Sunday trading legislation. It got round the laws by moving tills and products outside the doors and said sales had gone "quite well"

Photograph: Jason Bye

### IN BRIEF

• The Japanese government has announced a ¥380bn (£1.9bn) rescue package designed to kick-start the country's moribund prop-erty market, though analysts said the package did not represent a complete solution to the property bad debts on Japanese banks books, which are estimated to be worth up to \\$30,000hn. The key part of the reforms is the easing of rules that will allow property held as collateral to be turned into securities to be sold to

doned merger talks. Both companies suffered heavily from the effeets of the recession on the commercial property industry and MEPC has struggled to recover as quickly as Hammerson has under new chief executive Ron Spinney. The impetus for the talks is thought to have come from MEPC's leading shareholders, including PDFM. Estate agents are at their most optimistic for three years, according to a survey by Birmingham Midshires building society. Four

Hammerson is thought to have rejected the idea of a hostile bid for property industry rival MEPC after the two companies aban-

out of five believe the market is gathering pace. Though house prices have steadied in the last six months, they are 10 per cent higher than this time last year. Agents predict a further 6 per cent rise over the next year. Three- and four-bedroom homes are the most popular: One-bedroom properties are hardest to sell.

• The chief executive of Tesco Personal Finance, the financial services joint venture between Tesco and the Royal Bank of Scotland, is to be Derek Sach, former managing director of 3i Group. Rowley Ager, a director of Tesco, is to be chairman.

 The first quarter of 1997 was the quietest for stock market flotations for several years, according to a survey by KPMG Corporate Finance. Floiations were up from 16 to 20 but generated only £246m, compared with over £26n in the the same period last year. KPMG said uncertainty over the election was partly to blame.

· British Airways has clinched a five-year deal with Ryder to outsource its Ground Fleet Services vehicle management and maintenance work at Heathrow and Gatwick. Most of GFS's staff will move to Ryder and the remainder will take early retirement, vol-uniary redundancy or other BA jobs.

STOCK MARKETS

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FISE SmallCap 2313.72

FTSE AV-Share 2099.70

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Source: FT Information

## Grocers grab 15% of video and CD market

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

The big supermarket groups have grabbed a 15 per cent share of the UK's music and video sales and could account for a quarter of the market within three years, according to a

The latest issue of UK Retail Report, by retail consultants Corporate Intelligence, says sales of music and video products by the big four super-markets topped £400m last means Tesco, Sainsbury's, Safeway and Asda saw their share of the UK market rise from 10 per cent in 1995 to 15 per cent last year.

As the grocers cut prices on the biggest-selling chart compact discs and videos, the report says they will continue to exert pressure on rival retailers in the market, particularly WH Smith, Our Price and Boots.

"It is just another example of

year. With the UK entertain- markets are creaming off the jority of their music sales, in con-ment market worth £2.9bn, that volume end of the market," says trast to specialist shops like Corporate Intelligence's Robert

> He points to sectors such as petrol, health and beauty products and books as other examples of the supermarkets' successful drive into non-food

The report says that the retailers most vulnerable to the supermarket's relentless march are WH Smith and Boots. These stores rely on women a product area where the super- and older shoppers for a ma-

HMV and Virgin," Mr Clark says. "But they do not offer sufficient breadth of range or quality of service to differentiate

themselves from the crowd." He adds that Our Price, which still operates from relatively small stores, could suffer for similar reasons.

Specialists such as Tower Records, whose six large stores give it 1.4 per cent of the UK market should continue to prosper as it stocks a buge

range of back catalogue music and videos. Kingfisher's Music and Video Club should be protected as it specialises in discounted back catalogue CDs, which are unlikely to be targeted by the supermarkets.

The smaller, independent retailers will have to carve out their own individual niche to survive, says Mr Clark.
Though the report rules out

a price war, it says that the supermarkets will embark on a "war of attrition" to win further

### **Terminal** cloud in open skies

Michael Harrison

British Midland, the country's second-biggest scheduled airline, warned yesterday that the completion of open skies across Europe could be held back by capacity restrictions at its

biggest airports. From today any European carrier will be allowed to operate domestic services many other member state - the third and final phase of the European Commission's deregulation of the airline market.

But British Midland, one of the pioneers of European liberalisation, said it feared this would not usher in cheap fares and increased competition because of airport overcrowding. Sir Michael Bishop, the air-line's chairman, said: "The restrictions are such that there is now unlikely to be an explosion of carriers on the major routes, bringing down fares and resulting in more people travelling abroad, as has happened in

He added that millions of travellers were being denied the positive effects of competition by infrastructure constraints at Europe's busiest airports.

international airport, is full and even if Terminal 5 is approved it will not open until early next century. Frankfurt is also becoming capacity constrained while Milan's Milate airport is full and Malensa airport will not be fully functional for a num-

ber of years. According to a report hy British Midland, 27 of Europe's busiest cross-border routes start or finish at airports where capacity is constrained. It estimates there are only 33 domestic routes in Europe with significant potential for new entrants to start services. Although the number of scheduled carriers operating across Europe bas risen from 114 in 1987, when deregulation began, to 156 last year, the report says the German, Irisb, Greek and Portuguese markets continue to he dominated by one national

flag carrier.

The report says there is an urgent need to expand airport capacity, tackle the environmental problems around airports that limit capacity and make better use of existing airports.

## Ascend descends on US rival in \$3.7bn deal

The merger mania in the US network computers industry continued yesterday when Ascend Communications agreed to buy its smaller rival Cascade Communications in a \$3.7bn (£2.31hn) deaL

It follows last month's \$6bn link-up between 3Com and US Robotics and last year's \$4bn takeover of Stratacom Corporation by Cisco Systems, the market leader.

Analysts said the market for equipment that links other computers has been growing quickly achusetts.

6.00

0.75

0.56

Centrica 63.5 Nati Express Gp 573.5

6.19

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due to the rapid expansion of the Internet and private cor-porate networks that link up with the World Wide Web. The growth of the leading companies such as Cisco has increased pressure on other players to compete for economies of scale

in the industry's shake-out. The enlarged company will retain the Ascend name as well as its headquarters in Alameda, California while Cascade said it did not expect any job cuts at its main base in Westford, Mass-

INTEREST RATES

| Median Book (%) | Mar Jep

Hists - Top 3 Prints Western Name Falls - Top 3 Prints Wilde to Anne

8.13

3.28

6.41

7.63

Ascend recorded sales of \$549m last year while Cascade's sales were \$341m. Under the terms of the share-swap Cascade shareholders will receive 0.7 Ascend shares for each of their existing Cascade shares.
Ascend said the acquisition will be one of the largest ever

in the rapidly growing field of network computing. The group will !ake an as yet unspecified one-off charge against its thirdquarter profits to cover the merger-related costs. Ascend plans to re-organise the Cascade husiness into four divisions: multi-media access products, remote products, access and concentrator products and core switching systems Cascade said yesterday that n expected its first-quarter earn-ings to be 14-15 cents, below

analysts' estimates. Commenting on the deal.
Ascend's president and chief executive Mory Ejabat said: "The combination of products, technologies and sales channels will position Ascend as one of the industry's premier providers.

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INTEREST RATE CHANGE Investment and Savings With effect from 1st April 1997, the interest rates for the ollowing share and deposit accounts will be as shown belo Type of Account SPECIAL 85 GAR. † £80,000 to £99,009 GAR. † £25.000 to £49,999 CAR † £10,000 to £1,999 CAR. † £1,000 to £1,099 CAR. † £500 to £1,999 CAR. † TERSA ELITE (DEPOSIT) AND TESSA ELITE (SHARE") 6.05 POSTMASTER II Instant access by pos £100,000 and over D60.000 to £99.909 £30,000 to £30,999 £10,000 to £29,999 £9.500 to £9.999 £1.000 to £9,999 OUR CUSTOMER ADVICE LINE IS AVAILABLE FOR DETAILS OF ALL THE SOCIETY'S GURRENT INVESTMENT RATES ON PETERBOROUGH (01735) 572222. Norwich and Peterborough

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GAVYN DAVIES

There is no sterling

crisis lying in wait for

Mr Blair, but there is

the question of EMU

membership. If any

question is likely to

administration then

this would be it, and

there will be pressure

for a decision as early

as this summer'

dog the next

# **Terminal**

cloud in , pen skies

tichart Harrison

What Brown should budget for after the election

fier 1g years in opposition, the urge to act will sit heavily on the shoulders to act will sit heavily on the should find a New Labour government, if elected this summer. Yet history counsels caution, since several previous administrations have, in effect, blown their inheritance in the first few weeks of office.

Even now, it is possible to meet people, especially in the City, who see Messis Blair and Brown as frontmen, and who expect a rapid lurch to the left should Labour win power. They point to the disastrons example of the victorious Wilson team in 1974, the most obvious example of a left-of-centre government attempting to implement an old-fashioned programme of "tax and spend". This quickly foundered, and Labour then spent years trying desperately, and unsuc-cessfully, to recover.

This comparison is quite ridiculous. New Labour has explicitly learned the lessons of Wilson in 1974. One of the key objectives since 1994 has not only been to jettison any vestige of "tax and spend" for the sake of winning the election, but also to keep expectations realistic for the first few years of government. Hence the Gordon Brown pledge to stick to the Tory spending plans for the first two years of government. If there does turn out to be a landslide on 1 May, it would be a very odd landslide, built on sober promises and low expectations. A negative mandate perhaps, but so much the better for avoiding early mistakes in office.

1979 may be more relevant for the present case than Wilson in 1974. When Wilson won the election of 1964, armed with a programme of gennine reform and hot air in roughly equal measure, he was met on the doorstep of No 10 - almost literally - by Treasury mandarins demanding action to correct the balance of payments crisis that had been allowed to mount in the last months

of the Mandling chancellorship.

That very first weekend, Wilson, Callaghan and Brown were asked to choose between three options - devaluation of sterling. import quotas, or a temporary import surcharge. As Ben Pimlott writes in his hiography of Wilson: "A decision of vital national importance could scarcely have been made under worse conditions: the decision takers barely out of an exhausting election campaign, with no recent experience of government. Not since 1945 had an incoming administration faced so severe a crisis. Then, however, the debate about financial arrangements had extended over a period of months. This time, there was a need for an instant decision."

Sadly, Wilson made the wrong decision, setting his face against devaluation and opting for an ineffective surcharge on imported goods. That instant decision, which Wilson never allowed to be properly reviewed by the

would be a hitter political defeat.

There is no such sterling crisis lying in want for Mr Blair this time, but there is the question of EMU membership to deal with. If any question is likely to dog the next Labour administration, then this would be it, and there will be pressure for a decision as early as this summer. The lesson from the 1964-70 Labour government is to think long and hard before coming 10 a view, and then to ensure that the whole Cabinet is effectively locked into whatever course the prime minister chooses to follow.

A different example - Mrs Thatcher's victory in 1979 - is perhaps the most interesting, since it pertains to the live issue of what to include in Mr Brown's July Budget. Some outside economists are arguing that the fiscal stance needs to be tightened. and that it would be advisable for the new chancellor to hite this bullet immediately. whatever commitments have been given dur-

ing the election campaign.

They cite the example of the campaign of 1979, when Geoffrey Howe talked of the need to switch the burden of tax between income tax and indirect tax, and of the need to control public spending and the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR). But he specifically denied Labour claims that he had

Within six weeks of winning the election, the new chancellor introduced a June Budget which raised the basic rate of VAT from 8 per cent to 15 per cent (increasing the RPI by almost 4 per cent) and also hiked base rates from 12 per cent to 14 per cent. On the face of it, this was a poke in the eye for the electorate, yet the Home Budget was not particularly unpopular, with the new chancellor winning a favourable approval rating of 38 per cent to 30 per cent in the polls. How was

this possible? It was possible because of the third main plank in the Howe strategy, a dramatic cut in income tax rates. The basic rate dropped from 33 per cent to 30 per cent, and the top rate from 83 per cent to 50 per cent, and the top rate from 83 per cent to 60 per cent. These income tax cuts more than offset the impact of the jump in VAT on take-home pay, which was roughly unchanged for the average family as a result of the Budget. So the 1979 Howe tackage, contrary to recent muthology, did package, contrary to recent mythology, did not spring an unexpected tax increase on the electorate. Instead, it went for a more audacious version of the switch between direct and indirect taxation that had been promised during the campaign. It was therefore accepted by the electorate as an extension of

what the Tories were promising, rather than a reversal of the spirit of their pledges. It is difficult to be sure what the Treasury

With a sudden furth to the left completely ruled out, the early experiences of Harold Wilson in 1964 and Margaret. Thatcher in the eventual devaluation of November 1967: of raising interest rates. never suggested that he had any intention of raising interest rates.

One t awaiting Messrs Blair and Brown on the doorsteps of Downing Street will say this time. Perhaps it will are use for an early finish. ening in fiscal policy, on the grounds that any increase in taxation becomes more difficult as the Partiament progresses. Some may even argue that enough loopholes have been left in the precise tax commitments made by New Labour to enable them quickly to raise the burden of tax, should this become necessary.

The alternative view would be that it is the spirit of the commitment on tax, and not the precise wording, that counts. New Labour is saying to the voters - trust us, we are different, we have no desire or apparent need to raise your taxes. Would they ever be forgiven for attempting to wriggle out of this commitment within weeks of the election, when nothing new had happened to justify the change? After all, the PSBR is improving relative to previous Treasury forecasts, and the demand management case for tighter fiscal policy can already be assessed on information publicly available before the election. The Treasury "books", in themselves largely a figment of political imagination, will contain nothing un-expected to justify such a risk.

Of course, a tax switch in the July Budget, enabling Mr Brown to introduce his 10p starting rate of income tax would be possible on the Howe model. But a significant rise in the overall burden of personal taxation? That would surely be an altogether differ-

Property star Nick Leslau is planning a string of ultra-chic hotels across Europe. Tom Stevenson finds out what motivates him

# Driven by the demon fear of losing it all

Tick Leslau's demons seem curious to the rest of us who rub by one pay cheque from disaster. A multicbeque from disaster. A multimillionaire 10 years ago in his late 20s, the property world's brightest young star says he puts in hectic 12-bour days not because he needs the cash but because he's scared.

"Abject fear of losing is what makes you keep doing it. Ineverything, of moving back to a bedsit in West Hampstead. Which is prohably absurd. There's a fun element to it of course, but none the less a rather sad side."

It certainly does seem absurd for someone with such an apparent golden touch to worry so. Ever since he reversed his tiny property development company, Burford, into partner Nigel Wray's quoted company, Chartsearch, in 1986, netting £4m in the process, he has hardly put a foot wrong. Burford prides itself on having grown its net assets seven or eight times faster than the rest of the pedestrian property sector ever since, and the company has a fan cluh

in the City to match. It's hard not to like Leslau, despite the fact he's the sort of hloke you'd really love to hate. At 37, he's got it all - nice house in Hampstead, young wife, nice kids, and a puzzled look on his face when trying to work out whether it's £20m or £25m he has tied up in one of the husinesses he has successfully spun

off from Burford. But he genuinely does not seem to care about the embarrassment of cash he's piled up Circus, acquiring the rights to

← The idea is to be like The Ivy restaurant,

where even in a recession you

can't get a seat 9

than one. I don't have the toys, the boats, the houses abroad." This is a man who not only gets around town on a £2,000 Piaggio scooter out is so conscits go-faster stripes. So this is the motorised face of Burford, is it -lean, mean and frugal? "Well, actually I didn't use it today. I had a breakfast meeting this morning at The Ritz I didn't really want to turn up with Scooter. Helmet Hair. But I love my scooter. It's very humanising. Looking around Burford's unexceptional head office, just off Oxford Street, it is hard to

Britain's ninth-biggest property Noddy and other Euid Blyton investor, which is now worth characters and, most recently, fly f600m 10 years after it was ing off at another seeming tan-started from scratch. The usual gent to set up a joint venture with cintter of files and old desits and New York's most stylish hotelier. coffee cups in an unpreposing of it. Once you've got a nice. Until you walk into the chief house, you don't need more executive's inner sanctum, that

is, where the real man lives frugal he may be, but this is a contrived simplicity, not harsh monasticism. From the corrugated iron desk (designed by his American sculptress wife, Max-ine) to the bare plaster walls and the chairs that look ob so chic. and are oh so uncomfortable, this is not the office of a man who dreams of running Land Securities.

This is the office where last week's move from industrial estate rent collector to dropdead-trendy hotelier was hatched. Here, the decision to team up with Ian Schrager, who rubbed shoulders in 1970s New York with Andy Warhol Piaggio scooter but is so consciously unflash the first thing he the Big Apple's most fashion-did after huying it was to rip off able hotels; including the Paramount and the Royalton,

suddenly makes sense. Burford is planning a string of ultra-chic hotels in London and in main cities around Europe where it has struck an exclusive deal with Schrager. To be designed by Philippe Starck, the hotels, often renovations of redundant office buildings, are to be the last word in urban cool.

"With Ian Schrager's brand, disagree with Leslau's claim which is fantastic because he



Dream team: Nick Leslau (left), Ian Schrager and Philippe Starck (right) in Leslau's frugal office

hotel, and our property management expertise, this could be a very exciting business. They're what I would call classically fashionable. Quite dark and seductive, very comfortable, really quite sery. Great looking

staff and there's a huzz. "The idea is to be the equivalent of The Caprice or The Ivy restaurants, where even in a recession you can't get a seat. There are very few of what you've got but what you've got

people want to be in."

Quite a sideways move for a

70 per cent m Italy.

really has pioneered this sort of builders' merchant in Battersea, some advertising hoardings on Edgware Road and Caesars Palace casino in Lutan: But not a whnlly unexpected development for a hyperactive team that has already spun off three businesses in 15 months - a publisher, a retail warehouse

developer and the Trocadero. Leslau says that despite ap-pearances he is no workaholic. My first meeting this marning was at 7.30, but I'm always home in time to put my kids to bed. The pace I'm working at now actually means I'm probably being modestly ineffecinclude the freehold of a tive. A lot of all this is about

thinking time. The trick is to produce enough quality time so

Quality time looks like being

you make the right decisions."

deferred for a while yet, however. The hotels venture, in which Burford has put an initial £50m, is looking at its own stock market flotation. The Trocadero, of which Leslau is also chief executive, is thinking about its very own demerger of the Enid Blyton publishing interests and grappling to solve problems with its main tenant. Segaworld. And those industrial investments won't run themselves. Time to replace the goPhotograph: Edward Webb

# Britain's pension cloud has silver lining

### But is it sustainable - or could it lead to our own downfall? Robert Laslett

Britain has a more favourable pension position than many other European countries. How has the UK got into this position? And is it sustainable or does it contain the seeds of its

(wit downfall? Everywhere in Europe, populations are ageing and the socalled support ratio - the number of working-age people creating the income out of which the living standards of each retiree has to be financed - is fulling. But it is not falling as fast in Britain as in many European countries. The World Bank's World Population Projections suggest that the UK will have the highest support ratio by 2025. We have a relatively small proportion of the population in the 35-49 oge range. So while there are fewer middle-aged earners to support the retired in the UK now than there are on the Continent. the balonce will shift as this

One is that its pension commitments are much lower than elsewhere. State pensions take 6.4 per cent of the UK's GDP, a smaller share than in most

other countries. Since state pensions have to be met out of annual revenues - they are not supported by a fund - the lower the level of commitments the less tax needs to be raised to pay the bill. Indexing to prices has had a large cumulative effect: real gross weekly earnings have risen 32 per cent since 1980, and the share of the basic state pension in GDP has fallen accordingly. The result is a state pension that in relative terms is less generous than it used to be, and less generous than in other Euro-

pean countries. Secondly, the UK has accumulated large stock of private pension assets - over 70 per cent of GDP - out of which future group comes to retirement. pensions can be paid. The EU That is the demographic silver lining in Britain's pension cloud.

There are two other points countries largely lack such assets. The existence of private pension schemes is one of the that work to Britain's advantage.

to cut state pensions so much. Since the UK scores well on all three counts, it is not surprising that it has much lower future pension commitments than most of continental Eu-

rope. IMF research suggests that average contributions of

just 6.4 per cent of earnings are required to keep the UK system in actuarial balance, compared with 43 per cent in Italy\* These differences will in-

Support ratios in selected European countries

reasons the UK has been able crease. By the middle of the next the rest of Europe. Demo-

graphic and retirement age century, if present trends conressures could thus mitigate tinue, the UK's required level of contributions will have fallen the crisis for Europe but carry no necessary threat for the UK. to 5 per cent of earnings over It would be illogical to take com-But will present trends confort from comparisons that depend on the basic British state pension falling further and furtime? Demography can change in unexpected ways. Moreover, ther behind the incomes of these extrapolations are based on the assumption of a fixed those in work.

retirement age that is already Flemings Investment Trust Management's 1997 "Pension hreaking down in the USA. Map" suggests that over a third of the UK's 24 million houseand may do so in the UK and holds would retire in financial hardship (defined as less than 40 per cent of final earnings).

If the basic pension were to be raised in line with earnings instead of prices, OECD figures show that UK public pension liabilities would be similar to those of Germany, though still well below those of France or Italy. Hence the search for alternatives schemes, such as the Government's Pension Plus. which offer to deliver higher retirement incomes at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

But do private pensions in their present form offer a viable way forward?

The UK's private pension assets have grown almost ex-clusively an the back of occupational pension schemes. These have roots stretching back to the 1920s and 1930s, and grew enormously from the 1950s to the 1980s as more and more employees came within their scope.

Structural changes in labour markets, in particular towards more part-time and contract work, the growth of small companies and self-employment, and the development of personal pensions have all contributed.

Personal pensions, however, do not yet constitute a complete answer. So the UK's present and prospective pension position, attractive though it may be by European standards, does not give grounds for complacency.

\* Chand & Jaeger "Ageing Populations and Public Pension Schemes". December 1996

Robert Laslett, London Eco-



### sport

## Rugby will never be a mass sport so long as referees continue to make decisions which are incomprehensible

The game of rugby now finds itself in a strange position. On the one hand, the laws themselves remain as complicated as they ever were, in some respects more so. But, on the other hand, players, administrators and referees are all in their different ways trying to make the game more flowing, more watchable, more suitable for what they hope will be a mass sudience in an era of professionalism dominated by television.

Predictably enough, the result has been confusion all round. Forward passes are now ignored if blowing the whistle would interrupt a movement - particularly a move-ment which has resulted in a try. There were several examples of this indulgence in the Five Nations season that has just ended.

Things have not yet reached the stage they are at in rugby league, where the front rows lean forward at an angle of approximately 60 degrees to the ground and the scrum-half bounces the ball off the outside leg of the loose-head prop. But this is

the way they are going.

And yet the laws are clear that a crooked feed is punishable with an indirect free-kick. It has always escaped me quite why a deliberate attempt to gain an unfair advantage should he treated more leniently than, say, failing to release the ball

penalty-free zone. Or, to be precise. one aspect of the scrum, the crooked feed, has become a regular feature

of the game. When did you last see

a strike against the head in an in-

ternational or, for that matter, in the

Courage First or Second Divisions?

when the tackled player is in no po-sition to do anything of the kind. But even this minor penalty is seldom exacted these days.

In other respects, the scrum is the reverse of penalty-free. Indeed, it has become the most fecund source of a useful three points. Or, if a penal-ty try is awarded, of seven. Certainly, defending props will of-

ten deliberately collapse a scrum on their own line if they think that there-by they can avoid a pushover try. But as Gerald Davies pointed out last Saturday in what we old journalists have been taught to call Another Newspaper, they do not engage in this practice nearly as much as referees clearly imagine they do. Sometimes the sinners are in the attacking front row. I have even seen a penalty awarded on the defending side's



22 and on its own put-in. What on earth would be the point of collapsing B scrum in these circumstances? The award of penalty tries has be-come even more farcical. Ten years ago such scores were rare. Thirty years ago they were more or less nonexistent. I remember seeing Terry Price (a great player who sadly nev-

ently needs tidying up: the high or langerous tackle. It is clear that the old games masters' injunction -Tackle low, boy" - is not always applicable in the modern game. The ball carrier has to be smothered, turned round, prevented, in the jargon, from "making the ball avail-able". To accomplish this the upper part of the body has to be roughly embraced. So I am not calling for all high tackles to be penalised; merely for some consistency by referees enforcing the law.

Then there is the line-out. There ter of Richmond's jumpers.

er fulfilled himself) virtually taking the head off an opposing wing who was careering down the touchline. All the attacking side got in return was a penalty which, being on the touchline, they drive means that the statement of the field, anything goes. Forwards now soar heavenwards like inter-continental ballistic missiles. And, like those weapons, they often miss their target, especially when the ball is thrown

to another part of the line entirely.

The theory appears to be that the line-out should go the same way as the scrum in that the ball should be secured by the side doing the throw-ing-in. But this does not seem to be working out in practice, which is, I suppose, a good thing. Thus, twice this year Newcastle's Doddie Weir and Garath Archer have had the betBut rugby will never be a mass sport so long as rucks and mauls remain such a large part of the game and referees continue to make decisions which are incomprehensible even to the most experienced television commentators. The present law puts a premium on killing the hall by preventing it from emerging from a maul. The side that took the hall into the maul and failed to recycle it then has the put-in at the ensuing scrum awarded against them. It is surely time to return to the Nation set for pitma

old law which decreed that the side going forward should have the put-in. I would, however, go further. The old law also contained the doctrine of the last shove, which meant that a side defending desperately was deemed to be going forward. This would certainly not be brought back.

## Menu's ideal start to title race

**Gwyn Dolphin** 

reports from Donington Park on the start of the **British Touring Car** Championship

After three consecutive finishes as runner-np in the British Touring Car Championship, Alain Menu gave his title pursuit the best possible start with a pair of victories at Donington Park yesterday.

The Swiss, who was outpaced by his team-mate, Jason Plato. in Sunday's qualifying sessions, was never headed in his Williams-run Renault-Laguna and jumped into an immediate championship lead.

Electrifying starts ensured that Menu was ahead of the pack by the time the world's top touring car racers reached Donington's first corner. Such was his dominance that he was able to back off and cruise to the finish of the second race.

"The team told me to take it easy and to me easy means backing off a lot." Menu said lat-

er with a smile. Plato gave chase to his more podium place. His four-wheel experienced partner in both races, finishing the day's opening round in second place. However, when he was well placed to repeat the result in the second race of the day, his Renault's engine overheated and forced him to retire. "I'm still I expected. I'm sure we'll imhappy though. Being fastest in qualifying gave me enormous confidence and I learned a bell

of a lot," the 28-year-old said, Plato's retirement from the



Dog fight: Alain Menu, driving a Renault Laguna, speeds past the Spitfire on display at Donington Park on his way to victory in a typically Photograph: David Ashdown close-fought opening race of the British Touring Car Championship yesterday

champion. Frank Biela, of a consequences of the close racdrive Audi, forced to run 95kg heavier than its front-wheel drive rivals, had to give way to Rickard Rydell in the closing laps of round two, dropping to third behind the Swede's Volvo. "This result was better than prove hut Menu already has a hig lead in the title chase," the German said.

Both Biela and Volvo Rydell were forced out of the day's first second round ensured the race with damaged radiators,

ing which brought over 30,000 spectators to the Leicestershire track. The second Volvo, driven by Kelvin Burt, was third in the opening round, just holding off David Leslie's Nissan, but gear selection problems dropped him to ninth in the day's other event.

The day could hardly have gone better for Menu. Apart from the mixed fortunes of Biela and Rydell, Gabriele Tarquini, the former BTCC champion, was only able to claim seventh and fourth place finishes. The Hon-

da driver closed on Biela as the second race wound down but, as he explained afterwards, an accident in qualifying had turned his pace-setting car into a mid-

His team-mate. James Thompson, proved much quicker but lost a wheel in the first race and was forced to fight back from a spin in race two. The Yorkshireman was lying second, just ahead of Plato, when the Renault driver tried to pass. Thompson spun off then staged a fighthack to finish sixth.

In his charge, he passed Derek Warwick, the former grand prix driver who was making his debut in a Vauxhall run by his own team. Warwick brought his car home in the points in both races, while his team-mate and the 1995 champion. John Cleland, was out of luck, suffering clutch failure in the second race.

Scotland's Colin Gallie made an impressive debut, claiming victory in the Total Cup for Independents in his Pyramid Motorsports BMW320.

SREITSH TOURING CAR CREAMPIONSRIP (Donington Paris): Round One (13 lapst): 1. A Moru (Remot) Logane) 29mm 38. There are succed 91.23mph; 21 Plato (Remat): Lagane) at 34.52; 6. J. Britchflo (Aut. A4) 30.54; 6. P. Rodgech (Ford Mondeo) 35.67; 7. G. Tarquerl (Honde Accord) at 38.83; 2. P. Weist, (Paugod 460) at 39.35; 10 T Hervey (Paugod 406) at 44.78.

Round Fan (12 langle): 1. A Language (Paugod 406) at 44.78.

Round Fan (12 langle): 1. A Language 4. Same (12 language).

Pastest Lauc Menu 1mm 37,08secs, ave speed 92,70mph. Championship standings: 1 Menu 30pts; 2 Pi-ao 14; 3= Burt, Brachite, Tarquini, Rydeli 12; 7 Bela 10; 6 Radiach 9; 9 Leslin 8; 10= Thom-son, Warvack 5.

Placepot: £164.80. Quadpot: £136.50. Place 8: £205.20. Place 5: £136.39.

PLUMPTON

TOWCESTER

UTTOXETER

2.50: 1. QOOD FOR A LAUGH (O Burows)

## **Testing time** ahead for **Frentzen**

DAVID TREMAYNE

reports from São Paulo

Heinz-Harald Frentzen made no bones about his performance in Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix. "It was nothing sensational," he said of a race in which he trailed home in ninth place while his team-mate, Jacques Villencuve. won convincingly

"A bad start - a driver problem - then I got stuck behind two Jordans, After my second pit stop I had a gear-change. problem, The return spring on the right-hand gear-lever paddle wasn't working because of a problem with the steeringwheel assembly, so I had to push the lever back every time with my middle finger. I could only shift at low revs and sometimes in shifting it down I went down another gear."

The young German was drafted into Williams to replace Damoo Hill, and Frank Williams: decision to employ the young German with a reputation to rival that of Michael Schu-Mercedes-Benz sportscar partners aroused strong criticism. Thus far, Frentzen has been annihilated by Villeneuve, who himself was frequently beaten by Hill in the latter's successful 1996 championship season. But he insists that his confidence, although battered, remains intact.

"I woo't give up that quickly," he said after the race. "I get more motivation out of this. I need to test because I'm not happy with the car in qualifying set-up, although we did discover that I had a hroken front

Villeneuve completed 6,000 kilometres of pre-season testing when he graduated to F1 and.

the Williams technical director. said. "Then he takes care of catching it when it slides." "Jacques certainly runs a dif-

ferent set-up to me," Frentzen said. "As a new guy to Williams. my way of setting up a car is different. The team is giving me advice and at the moment I'm still working out my point of view of setting up the car, and also Williams' point of view. At the moment, it's a mixture of Damon Hill's set-up and my own, and I look forward to more testing to work in my direction."

The Williams is difficult to set up because it has more options than most cars, "Technically it is very advanced," Frentzen said: "So from a driver's point of view, and mine especially, there is much more information which I have to sort out before I make the car 100 per cent. The more information, the more

things you can make wrong." "If I knew what the problem is, we would fix it," Head said. "Maybe the bumpiness here threw him. He seems to like it better when we've got more fuel of his performances so far have been very exciting, but the season's got a lot of races in it.

"I think it's going to take him

half the season to get into it. Obviously, we'd like him to step into the car and be on the pace straight away, but he's not and it's something he's got to work out. I could hardly imagine that he believes that was a particularly great performance." This time last year, both Williams drivers were the class of the field. Now McLaren-Mercedes leads the constructors' championship and the competition is hotting up. If

Frentzen were to receive a report right now, it would read: Nice fellow hut must do betup. "He prefers to run the car ter." Assuredly. Williams will as stiff as a kart rather than have not expect his current form to it absorb bumps," Patrick Head, continue for long.

### CHEPSTOW

2.00: 1. OUT RANKING (Jame Evens) 15-B Lav; 2. Holy Joe 15-2: 3. Kndarl 6-1. 10 ran, 3, /n. (M Pipel, Toter: £3.10; £1.30, £1.80, £1.40. Dual Forecast: £12.60, Com-puter Straight Forecast: £15.46. Non Rumers: Bottet Royal. Viscount Tully, 2.30: 1. SEOD RIGGA (M Mann) 3-1 co lov: 2. Harwell Lad 7-2: 3. Old Bridge 3-1 co fax. 6 ran, 3-1 co-fav Fords Errand, 26.

co fax. 6 ram. 3-1 co-fax Fools Errand. 26. G. (5 Melion, Tober £4,20; £1,70, £2.10, DF. £8,30, CSF: £13,54. 3.00: 1. POTENTATE (Jame Evans) 100-

30; 2. Daraydan 9-4; 3. Mistinguett 11-8 fav. 5 ran. 3%, 1-4. (M Pipe). Tote: £3.30; £1.90, £1.90, DF: £3.40, CSF: £10.32. 3.30: 1. ZANDER (C Liswellyn) 9-4: 2. Major Dundee 9-4; 2. Rumpelstitiside 25-1. 9 ran. 6-4 ta: Donnington, 14, 13, IN Treaton-Daviesi. Totae £3, 10; £1, 10, £1, 20, £2, 10. DF: £4,50, CSF: £6,91, NRs: Calon Lan, Fears Hussor, Tiaphone. 4.00: 2. JAMES THE FIRST (M A Fitzger-

4-00: 2. JAMES THE FIRST (M A Fitzger-sid) 4-1: 2. Phersilk 10-1: 2. Methwood Castle 5-4 fav. 5 ran. 5, 12. (P Nethols). Tote: 54: 30: £1.60, £2:70, DF: £15:30, CSF: £30: 70. NR: Lanes Amstrong.
4-30: 1. CASSIO'S BOY (M Manni 20-1; 2. Reeganesque 11-2; 3. Jovie Ring 5-1, 12 ran. 17: 11. (R Eckley). Tote: £31.70, £4:90, £2:50. £3.10. DF: £154.70, CSF: £128.30, Theose: £609.15. NR: Spartding Cone.

### CARLISLE

20: 1. SOUSSE (G Lee) 6-4 for 2. Yahrly 7-1: 3. Pearts of Thought 11-1 13 ran. 2%, 1. (Mrs M Reveley). Total: 22.30; £1.40, 52.00, £2.80, DF: £6.70, CSF: £11.44, 2.80; 1. Trainsy very ran. 2.50: 1. TOUGH TEST (B Storey 5-1; 2. Kithilia 11-2; 3. Corston Joher 11-4 fav. 13 ran. 9. Stu-hd. (Mrs. J Goodfallow). Tote: 68.0: 61.90, 62.40, 61.80. DF: £43.90. CSF: £34.16. Incas: £89.79. CSF: £34.16. Tricast: £289.72. 3.20: 1. ARDRINA (M Foster) 2-1 favr. 2. Meedow Hymn 6-1: 3. Meggle Melody 9-2: 17 ran. 2, 11. (F Murphy). Totac £3.40; £1 60, £2.70, £2.00. DF: £6.00, CSF:

£13.53.
3.50: 1. NUWAY (B Storey) 20-1: 2. Gate
Ahoad 6-1; 3. Raspers Rock 11-2. 10 ran.
2-1 fav Northern Squire. 27., 14. (M Barnes).
Tobac £13.00: £2:60. £1.70. £2.80. DF:
£39.50. CSF: £133.18. Tressp: £707.40. NR: Forward Glen. 4.20: 1. MONNAIE FORTE (2 Storey) 11-

mission 3.1. 14 mm. 14, 14, Mrs Richard Arthuri. Tota: £50.10; £13.50, £1.40, £3.80. DF: £28.30. CSF: £64.51. MR

THER OF THE (C Lan) 9-4 tie 14-1. 20 ras. 5, 4, (Mrs M Reveloy). Tota: £4.80; £3.00, £7.30, £2.90. DF: £160.20. CSF: £94.90. Piscepot: £71.60. Quadpot: £24.80. Pisce 6: £58.60. Pisce 5: £39.30.

### FAKENHAM

2.90: 1. BLOTOFT (O O'Suliver) 15-1: 2. Ruth's Gamble 7-2 ji-lay, 3. Arch Angle 7-2 ji-lay, 15 ran. nk, 5. IS Gollings). Yete: £24.50; £5.30, £1.70, £1.50, DF: £40.60, £55. £69.22. Telegraph £235.00 3.05; 1. NOT MY LINE (Mr W Wates) 20-1:

2. Up For Ransome 11-4; 3. Galzig 7-1. 9 ran. 5-2 fav Reverend Brown (4th), 1/2, 5, t/ Morgan), Tota: £14.90; £3.30, £1.80 £3.20. DF; £55.50. CSF: £75.85. MR: High nd Raify. 3.40: 1. SIR DANTE (D O'Sulinan) 9-4 fav.

SAC: 1. SIR DANTE (D O'Sulvan) 9-4 fav.
2. Antiguan Fiyer 6-1: 3. Fire On Ice 5-1.
2. Antiguan Fiyer 6-1: 3. Fire On Ice 5-1.
2. Tran. 9, 2½. (R Rowe). Totae £3.50; £2.10.
£1.90. DF: £8.80. CSF: £15.26.
4.15: 1. DROMIN LEADER (Mr W Wales)
7-4 fav. 2. Cherry Clap 20-1; 3. Salast Bene\*
6-1. 7 ran. Ind. 10. U Turner). Totae £3.30;
£1.80. £4.40. DF: £19.80. CSF: £30.42. NRs.
Al Jaward, Emsee-H.
4.50: 1. Tim SOLDHER (Mr R Waldey) 2-1
fav. 2. Wildpers Delight 3-1; 3. Call Me AntiG-1. 7 ran. 2. rk. (Miss A Stokell). Totae
£2.80; £1.50. £1.70. DF: £2.80. CSF:
£2.91: Incast: £28.65. NR: Mire's An Ace.
5.25: 1. GEISWAY (X Abpun) 6-5 fav. 2.
Music Please 11-4; 3. Otho E Mezzo 3-1.
5 ran. rk. 4. (N Walker). Totae: £2.20; £1.40,
£1.80. DF: £3.20. CSF: £4.99.
Placespot: £41.70. Quadpot: £11.90.
Place 6: £35.55. Place 5: £18.07.

### HEREFORD

2.30: 1. NOBLE COLOURS (Mr A Write) 2-30: 1. NOBLE COLOURS IM A WINDS)
7-2: 2. Seattle Alley 4-7 (as; 2. Serveracker
25-1. 7 ran. 4, dest. (S. Griffitts), Totar: £4.90;
£1.70: £1.20. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.80.
NRs: Shawkey, Water Music Melody,
3.05: 1. LANDSKER MISSALE (Mr. N.
Bradloy) evens lan; 2. Faratillar Priesed 9-1:
3. Bowl of Orats 5-1. 9 ran. 15, 30. (Mrs.
Mary Evens), Totar: £2.20; £1.30, £2.10,
£1.30. DF: £7.00. CSF: £11.98. NR: Nodform Wonder.

om Woncer. 3.40: 1. JUST ONE CANALETTO (Mr.) Goldstem) 9-1; 2. Howgill 9-2; 2. Trust Deed 5-2. 7 mm. 15-8 far Warner's Sports. 94, 6, (N Weston-Demess, Tette £9.50; £2.90, £2.40, DF: £14.50, CSF: £49.70. 4.15: 1. LE BARON (G Tormey) 5-2: 2 long For Jess 100-30; 3. Aldymann 7-2

4.50: 1. TENAYESTELIGN (B Wynne) 6-4; 2. Lucky Eddle 4-5 fey; 3. Quarter Mark-er 7-1. 4 ran. 6. 7. (D Marke), Totae £2.30, DF; £1.40. CSF: £3.17. Non Runner; Indian Jockey, E.ZE: 1. KYMIN (Mr A Wintic) 4-1; 2. Secon Mead 8-1; 2. Burlington Sam 5-2. 6 ran. 2-1 tay Arabian Heights (GM), 14, 3%, (J Bradley, Tober £4.1.0; £1.70, £3.70, £2.40. DF: £45.20. CSF: £38.18. Tricest: £92.69.

## Placepoit £247.50. Quadpoit £77.50 (part won, pool of £84.87 to Unimeter today). Place 5: £178.16 Place 5: £141.02.

2.00: 1. EVEZO RUPO N Gaule; 12-1: 2. Sharp Thriff 11-4 for; 3. Summer Villa. 10-1. 9 ran. 8. 2. (N Litmodes), Totac E17.70; E3.50, E1.30, E3.00, OP: £43.20. CSF: £43.37. Treast: £324.22. Non Rrun-ner; Red Light.

2.30: 1. IASHUJ (S MoNeil) evers far; 2. Baron's Heir 10-1; 3. Pentara Prince 9-4. 5 ran. 1\(^4\), 20. (R Balley), Yote: £2.20; £1.60, £2.20. DF: £4.20. CSF: £9.74.
3.00: 1. SASSINER: (K Gaule) 15-8 ray, 2. Scud Missile 4-1; 3. La Mancrquista 3-1. 5 ran. 1, 20. (P Kellewy), Yote: £2.80; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £5.70, CSF: £9.37.
3.30: 2. RABA RESA (T Jenis) 9-2; 2. Mr Creditated 11.8, 3 2.30: 1. JASILU (S McNeil) evens fav. 2.

Conductor 11-8.3 ma. evens for Wester Durm furnecated rider). No. U Scening. Totac £3.90. DF: £3.20. CSF. £9.50. Only two finished. 4.05: 1. SEABROOK LAD IN MARSON 2: 1 tay; 2. Burn Out 9-4; 3. Scenic Waters 100-30. 9 mar. 7. 2. [M Wilderson]. Totac £3.60: £1.80, £1.40, £1.60. DF: £6.30. CSF: £7.23. 4.35: 1. ODELL IS McNell) 11-4; 2. Quick

Quote evens fav; 3. Appearance Money 9-4. 3 ran. 4, 30. (K Bedey). Tota: £3.40. DF: £2.20, CSF: £5.33. 5.05: 1. MAD HARRY (S McNell) 7-4 fav. 2. Cue Call 9-4; 3. French County 12-1. 2 cite can 9-4; 8. French County 12-1. 10 ran. 4, 3. (K Baley), Tota: £2.40; £1.30, £1.70. £2.60, DF: £3.20. CSF: £5.71. Placeport: £327.80. Quadport: £119.80 (partwon, pool of £6.47 to Utrasets today). Place 6: £251.50, Place 5: £94.29.

KEMPTON

2.40: 1. MONAASSIB (D 0 Donohue) 11-2; 2. On Mellie 13-2; 3. World Premier 14-1. 11 ran. 13-4 fev Watch Me, ½, 4. (E Durlop, Newmarket), Total: £3-20; £2-40, £180, £5.20. DF; £25.80. CSF: £38-59. Tinc £154.30. 3.10: 1. EASTERN PROPHETS (A Clark)

3.10: 1. EASTERN PROPHETS & Clark)
20-1: 2. Sem-Duer 5-1 fav: 3. Dembrae 121: 4. Clim Born Born 7-1. 18 ran. ½, ht. (6
Lawk, Epsorn). Toba: £21.40; £4.90; £1.70,
£3.60; £2.90. DF: £83.80, CSF: £105.38
Meast: £1,214.26. Tric: £1,121.80
3.40: 1. ROMINOS (7 Quinn) 14-1; 2. Secret Ally 12-1: 3. Dreams End 6-1: 4. Hzzard A Guest 7-1. 20 ran. 5-1 fav Hardy
Dancer £3.10, nk, 1¼, (P Cole, Wistcombe).
Tota: £18.00; £3.90, £3.10, £2.50, £2.40,
DF: £1.15, 70. CSF: £151.86. Tricast:
£1.48.97. Tric: £503.40
4.45: 1. DR MASSBE U Read) 11-10 fav:
2. Germano 16-1; 3. Proper Elbe 100-30.
5 ran. £1, 2. (M Stoute, Newtrenhel). Tota:
£2.00; £1.40, £3.20. DF: £16.30, CSF
£16.30.

4.46: L. SINGLE EMPIRE (J Red) 3-1: 2. Prairie Falcon 6-1: 3. London Lights 7-4 law 6 ram, str. td. 34. (P Chappis Hyarn, Menton). Tota: £4.10: £2.10. £2.30. DF: £11.40. CSF: £19.18. Jackpot: not won (pool of £34\_143.70 car-ned forward to Unincrear today). Placepot: £3,928\_20. Quadpot: £26.90. Place 6: £696.27. Place 5: £133.90.

### YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

MARKET RASEN 2.15: 1. OUR ROBERT (F Leely) 5-2; 2. Thome Arena 7-4 fev; 3. Dentes Amour 25-1: 1.1 ram. hd, 4. U FitsGereid). Total: 53.10: £1.40; £1.60; £4.30. Dust Forecast: £3.00. CSF: £8.04. Winner bought in for 3.000

guiness. 2.45: 1. FORMAL INVITATION (R. Johnson) 4.7.45: 2. Bowles Patrol 33-1; 3. Desert Brave 6-1.7 res. det, 4. (D. Nicholson), Tete: £1.60; £1.40, £6.50. DF: £20.80, CSF:

220.58.

3.20: 1. MY CHEEK! MAN (R. Johnson) 1.110 fav, 2. Keen To The Last 9-1: 3. Dur Krls
10-1. 7 man. 2, 2½. (D. Nicholson). Totar
£2.00; £2.00, £2.60. Dual Forcesst: £7.00.
£7.61: 2.53. Tricest: £70.64. Super Rapler
(10-1) was withdrawn not under orders; Rule
4 applies, deduction 10p in the pound to all
bets.

3.55: 1. NETHERBY SAID (R Supple) 1-2 fay; 2. During Past 7-2; 3. Newhall Prince 3-1. 3 ran. 22; 26. (P Beaumont). Tota: £1.50. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.57.
4.30: 1. PRIAR SMOOTHER (F Leahy) 11: 10; 2. Mospheus: 10-11 fax; 3. Raise A Dollar 12-1. 5 ran. 7, 3. (FireGeraid).
5.00: 1. OCEAN LEADER (R Johnson) 15-2; 2. Karessastino 3-1; 3. Alsaisen Heir 14-1. 2 ran. 5-4 ks The Galiopn/major (riell), 7. dist. (Mrs II Haine). Tota: £1.20; £2.30. £1.10, £5.80. DF: £24.90. CSF: £33.86. Thoss: £308.87.
5.30: 2. LAREDO (C Scudder) 6-1; 2. Sawesb 10-1; 3. Double Ster 20-1. 14 ran. evens for De; For Gold. 5, 2½. (Not 7 Chance). Tota: £3.60; £5.60. £7.70, £6.00. DF: £206.20. CSF: £2.50. £7.70, £6.00. DF: £206.20. CSF: £2.50. (Long For Gold. 5, 2½. (Not 7 Chance). 3.55: 1. NETHERBY SAID (R Supple) 1-fav; 2. Dering Past 7-2; 3. Newhall Prince

Placepot: £15.90. Quadpot: £25.60.\* Place 6: £12.87. Place 5: £8.22.

NEWCASTLE NEWCAST LE
2.26.1. MENERSYBLE (L. Deport) 8-11 fay;
2. Tigrello 10-1: 3. Final That 10-1. 10 ran.
Ind. 2. (J. Gooden, Newmorket), Totac £1.70;
£1.40. £1.50, £2.80. DF: £4.80. CSF:
£9.12. The: £21.40.
2.85: 2. STATELY PRINCESS (L. Dettort)
5-4; 2. Caraspibo 12-1: 3. Flower O'Casmie
11-2. 4 ran. 11-10 fevounts Antonia's Double [4th). ¼, ½, (M. Channon, Upper Lambourn). Totac £2.30. Dual Forecast: £7.10.
CSF: £12.48.
3.30: 1. GANGE (f. Sódalo 7-2 fay; 2.

3.30: 1. GADGE († Sidde) 7-2 fev; 2. andmoor Denkn 14-1; 3. Seconds Sarigumor verms 14-1; 3. Seconds Revey 16-1; 4. Sheraz 10-1, 20 mm, 3, hr. iA Bel-ley, Tarporley), Toths: 25.10; £1.80, £3.90, £7.10, £2.30, DF: £55.00, CSF: £53.92 Tri-CSS; £538.98, Text £322.00, 4.00: 1. SURPRISE MESSION (/ Forume) 15-8 fev: 2. Strondsteins Bounty 16-1: 3. Maintennie 9-1. 12 mm. nk, %. (Mrs.) Rameden, Thirsb.). Totar £2.60; £1.50, £2.40, £2.00, DP: £41.10. CSF: £33.13. Tricest:

£203.14. This: £61.30. After a stewards' in-quity, the result shoot. 4.35; 2. PERFECT PARADIGM (I. Denori) 5-2; 2. Denk Green -13-10 fav; 3. Lanephile 5-2, 9 ran. 19. 19. (I. Gosden, Newmorles), Toker £3.00; £1.40, £1.10, £1.10, Dr. £1.60; CSP. £5.21. 8.00; 1. THREE ARCH BRIDGE (Dean McK-cown) 14-1; 2. Implictive Air 7-1; 3. Felat, 11-4 fav; 4. Be Warned 20-1, 13 Feat, 1, sht.6. (M. Johnston, Middleham), Yotac

5203.14. Trio: E61.30. After a stewards' in-

## 515.70; £3.60, £2.00, £1.60, £5.40, DF: £55.70, CSF: £108.88, Tricest: £342.91, Yric:

### t: £17.30. Quadnot: £8.80. NEWTON ARROT

2.15: 1. MELT THE CLOUDS (C Maude) 4-7 lay; 2. White Plains 9-4; 3. Generaux 9-2, 3 ran. 7, 20. (M Pipe). Yota: £1.80. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.18.

2.50: 1. DECYBORG (C Moude) 2.5 fav. 2. Country Keeper 9.4; 3. Russic Flight 9.1 3 ran. Dist. dist. (M Pipe). Tota: £1.40. CSF: £1.72. 3.25: 1. BOWDEN SURPPOSE (V Statesy) 15-1; 2. Sokosah 4-1; 3. Jay £m Ess; 11-8 fav. 9 ran. 2. 6. (R Balen). Tota: £21.80; £3.00; £1.70, £1.60. DF: £97.20. CSF: £83.48. Thosat: £141.33. 4.00: 1. MISTRESS ROSIE (C Webb) 3-7; 2. Wealk in The Woods 9-4. 3 ran. 4-9 fav Dubelle (pulled up). 14. IM Hill. Tota: £5.50. DF: £4.80. CSF: £12.16. NR: Imnelight. 4.35: 1. MELLOW MASTER (C Maude) 15-8; 2. The Brower 5-1; 3. Moonlight Escapade 4-1. 5 ran. 6-4 fav Prince of Spaces (Ath. 2-4. (N Weller). Totac 23.60; £1.80, £2.80. DF: £7.20. CSF: £13.02.

Total: 53.40; ELICU, 24.00 LD: 53.51.
4.30: 2. NOFIMARANCE U R KINANOGH)
1-2 fay, 2. River Sale 7-2.4 ran, 4. (D Gre-sell, Total: £1.60. DF: £2.30. CSF: £2.78.
8.00: 1. NIGHT IN A MILLION (L Aspel)
7-1: 2. Son Voyage 4-1; 2. Strangfor's Point
7-2. 7 ran. 11-8 fax Hely Mac (5th). 2/4,
10. IS Woodman). Total: £7.50: £2.20, £2.80.
DF: £14.70. CSF: £34.35.
Placesport £131.80. Quadipot: £42.00.
Places 5: £232.65, Places 5: £128.32. 5.10-HOLDINGLOSE walked over . 1 ran. Non Rurver: Fort Romeu.
Placepoit: £189.50. Quadpoit: £90.00 (pert won, pool of £17.04 to Uttowers today).
Place 6: £61.24. Place 5: £41.09. TOWCESTER

2.18: 1. ANF (D Signing) 5-1; 2. Paulton
9-2; 3. Captain Tendy 10-1. 8 ran. 9-4 for
Flash in The Pan (80). Srt.-Nd, 2. U Joseph).
Tota: £7.10; £1.70; £1.60; £2.20. DF£18.70; £2.774. Tricast: £205-17.
2.45: 1. SLEAZEY (S Currar) 4-5 for; 2.
Part Salling 5-2: 3. Capper Cable 4-1. 4
ran. 1, dist. U G O'Nelli). Tota: £1.80. DF£2.20; £5: £3.26.
3.15: 2. MERLINS DREAM (I A McCardy)
7-2: 2. Lay it Off 6-1; 3. Denger Baby 51. 8 ran. 3-1 fav Shesin Lad (4th). 3, 1%,
(D Sherwood). Tota: £5.00; £1.70. £1.70.
£1.90, DF: £24.90. CSF: £25.64. Tricast:
£100.35. MC Carson City.
2. EG: 1. ROSS DANCER (I Meggel 7-1:
2. Stac-Pollaids 9-4 fav; 3. Cabochen 61. 9 ran. RV, 1%. U Moorel. Tota: £10.00;

NOTTINGHAM 2.20: 1. LORD SMITH (D Sweeney) 11-10 for; 2. Who Nose 6-1; 3. Pink Ticket 6-1. 5 ran. 2, shr-bd. (W Turner). Toket £2.10; £1.40, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £10.60. CSF: 2.50: 1. NOLE HIGH (Part Fident) 11-8: 2. Cathedral 10-11 (by 3. Bold Geyle 15-1.7 ran. 2, 7. (M Channor): Tota: \$2.00; £1.10, £1.40. Dual Forecast £1.10. CSP: £3.03.

3.20: 1. TREASURE TOUCH (I Carroll) 7-12. Master Foloy 14-12. Miles Folos ble 6-1; 4. Distinctive Dream 25-1, 18 ran. 7-2 tay Perion, 314, 74, (1) Nicholai, Tote-16-70; £1.80, £3.30, £1.60, £8.00; DP. £1.09.30, CSF: £1.10.49, Tecast: £606.32, Trice £231.20 (part won, pool of £260.58 to Uttonster 3.10 todays.

3.80: 1. ROSS DANCER () Magnet 7-1: 2. Stac-Politakis 9-4 for 3. Cabochon 6-1.9 mm. nk. 1/4. () Moores. Totac £10.00; £250. E. 1.20, £170. OF: £12.20; CSP. £23.51. Thicast. £124.27.
4.26: 2. TREPLANTER (nkr 2 Poloco) 4-9 for 2. TrePLANTER (nkr 2 Poloco) 4-9 for 2. TrePLANTER (nkr 2 Poloco) 6-9 for 2. TrePLANTER (nkr 2 Poloco) 6-9 for 2. TrePLANTER (nkr 2 Poloco) 7-15 ma. 10; for £1.30. CSF. £1.80.
4.85: 1. RINK OF VISION () Magnet 9-4; 2. Jernalizen Flight 25-1; 3. Rinker Doogh 3-1, 10 rm. 2-1 for Mr Durcy (Gtt). 1/4, 4, (C. Marrit, Totac £3.60; £1.30, £4.40, £1.60. OF: £27.00, CSF. £55.31.
Place 6: £27.57. Floor 5: £23.46. Tric: £173.70 (pert won, poor of £83.21 to Uniqueer 3.10 today).

Historier 3.10 includy, Not of 183.24 to Microster 3.10 includy, 4.20: 1. RAMITICE (J. Wasser) 9-4 fav; 2. Woodsand Nymph 6-1; 3. Misrosmine 28-1. 8 tim. 7, 1%. (M. Johnston), Tober 12.30: 51.40, 51.50, £7.00. Dr; 26.90, GSF; 51.172. Tricast 5159 31. After a stemantic properly. The staff stood.

4.50: 1. FRISEDOM CHANCE (M. Harry) 8-12. Pentropyoda 10-1: 3. First Chance 10-1: 4. Servendo 33-1. 18 ran, 7-2-fav Major 1942. 1, ¼. U Hills), Tober 230.60; £4.80, £2.40, £3.80, £7.20. Dr; £82.50, £54.50, £4.80, £4.80, £5.80, £7.20. Dr; £82.50, £5.50, £7.50 2.15: 1. HAYAAM (F) O'Subum) 2.5 fac 7. Arrogant Helr 15-1: 3. Ezanak 7.2.4 zan, nk, 2%. (K Ballay). Tota: £1.40. DF: £7.90. CSF: £8.75.

### Round Two (18 laps); 1 Menu 29min 49.84sec, are speed 90.57mph; 2 R Rydell (Volvo S40) at 2.36sec; 3 F Bela (Aud. 44.1 to 4.26t; 4 Tarquent at 5.50; 6 Bentalite at 11.68; 8 J Thompson (Honda Accord) at 14.44; 7 Radisch at 20.24; 8 Warwels et 22.89; 9 Burt at 23.65; 10 C Gal-lie (Pysanad Motorsports BMW320) at 1:20.78. damper in qualifying." used it to hone his unusual set-

11-1. 12 ran. 11-4 for Turpin's Green, 15, 5, (A Hobbs), Tota: £3.90; £1.50, £3.20, £9.10. DF: £26.70, CSF: £50.35. Tricast:

2.30: 1. ANNA SOLEIL (0 Thomas) 9-2: 2. Palamon 4-1; 3. Dan Bowden 4-1. 5 ran. 11-4 fav Eskimo Nas: (pulled up). Vs. 13. (0 Shewood). Totac £6.80; £2.10, £1.90, £1.60, DF: £18.30. CSF: £22.32. Tricast Dessa. 3.25: 1. El. FREDDE (G Upter) 5-2 fav; 3.25: 1. El. FREDDE (G Upter) 5-2 fav; 5-2 fav; 6-1. 12 ran. rk; 8. U Old). Total £4.20; £1.90, £3.10, £3.40. DF: £19.70. CSF: 11.80, DF: 118.30, CSF: 122.32, Incose 170,56, NRS: Hankhont, Petros Gern, 3.00: 2. RUSTIC GENT (J B Kavenagh) 10-1: 2. Mr Beam 7-4: 3. Down Chance 6-4 8-6 Fam. 12, 4, 0Ms J. Lewell, Tothe 55.30; 52.80, £1.60, DF: £10.10, CSF: £28.60, NR: £34,60, Tricest: £211.91, NRs: Blezing Mir-234.00 HIGGE 2211.51, NGC CHARLES WAS 200; 10 FOY LINE, 4.00: 1. GRIZZLY BEAR U C.BON 14-1: 2. Loch Quresen Hotel 7-4: 3. First Beet 13-8 ftw. 7 ran. 2, 22. (R Stonge). Tokes: 512.50: 53.50, £1.60. DF: £19.40. CSP: 200.75. Minametro.
3.30: 1. REVENSE THRUST (M Cintor)
14-1; 2. Allor Intermetional 7-2; 3. Real
Madrid 6-1. 11. ran. 7-4 fav Sun Of Spring
Shu six-hd, 5. (P Hodgen, Total £21.50;
£4.30, £1.80, £2.20. Dr. £59.70. CSR.

£39.75. 4.65: 1, CARLINGFORD LARCE (C Uptor) 3-1; 2. Bellyee Boy 11-4; 3. Denk Celk 5-1. 5 na., 7-4 fav impariel Vintage. 16, 8. (T Thomson Force). Totes £4.30; £1.80, £1.40. DF: £6.50, CSF: £11.58. Non Runtier: Fid-4.00: 1. DREAM LENDER (D Gefrejner) 9-4; 2. Side Ber 14-1; 3. Pinocolo 7-1. 5 ran. 4-5 lev Cal Me River (lef), 28, 18. (M Roberts). Totas: 53.40; £1.60, £4.20. DP. £32.10. CSF. Gers Rise.
5.10: 2. MOTOQUA (Mr R Thornton) 6-4;
2. Kaytu's Carossel 16-1: 3. Riverbeak
Rose 10-1. 9 ran. 11-8 for Farmery Line (Roll.)

\*\*Collaborational Trains\*\* (2. 70; £1.60,

8, 17., (D Nicholson). Tota: £2,70; £1.60, £4.00, £1.50, DP: £39.20, CSF, £23.82, NR: Clauda Electric. Placepot: £183.40. Quadpot: £109.70. Place 6: . Place 6: . WARWICK

2.90: 1. VAX RAPPIDE IS Drownet 8-1: 2. Magain 12-1: 3. Alweys Lucky 5-1. 14 ran. 5-2 fav Treistre of Dresms (4th. 1½, rk. Ú Spearing). Totat: £10.60: £2.70. £3.60. Spearing). Toter: £10.60; £2.70. £3.60, £1.70. DF: £71.10. CSF: £90.28. Trio: £45.90.
3.00: 1. COUNT TONY (D Biggs) 25-1; 2.
Tanga King 1.2 fav; 3. Mystic Quest 1: 1.2 rm., 9., 1%, 6 Woods). Tota: £27.60;
£5.90, £2.80, £4.00. DF: £110.80. CSF: £143.40. Tacsst: £1,604.02. 7no: £227.00

pair work, pair to 27:350 to clause 3:10 today).

3.36; 1. MAD MILITANT (I Spreke) 8-1;
2. Volte Vita 12-1; 3. Norro Ludy 10-1. 13
ran. 5-2 lev Yet Again (5:0), 7/, 11/2, 6
Streeter), Teles: £7:00; £1:40, £3.10, £3.30,
UF: £36, 70, USP: £89.51. Tricest: £918.81.
Tele: £89.50.

DF: £36, 70, CSF: £89,51, Incest £918,61, Tdo; £99,90, 4,05: 2, DOMENANT DUCHESS (K Fallon) 5-2; 2, As-As 4-5 fby; 3, Receptieth of Or 40-1, 6 mar. 1/k, 6, () +18st. Totae £3.30; £1.70, £1.40, DF: £2.00, CSF: £4.54, 4.40: 1, RUSSEAN MUSIC (K Fallon) 11-4 & fby; 2, Carmenta 6-1: 3, King of Pers 11-4 Jr falls B ran. 3/k, 3, (Main Gay Kelleway), Totae £3.90; £1.40, £2.30, £1.60, DF: £10.10, CSF: £18.13, NR: Lon-by Leader. Trac £7.80.

5.10: 1. NAPOLEON STAR (N Adems) 11-12 Sotonian 16-1: 3. G Lu High 5-2 tav. 13 ran. 4. 14. (S Bowing), Tota: £15.90; £3.00, £3.90. OP. £103.30. CSF: £188.81. Treast: £489.48. This: £79.80.
Placapot: £413.00. Quadpot: £19.00.
Place 6: £264.97. Place 5: £60.41.

2.15: 1. BARTON HEIGHTS (P Niver) 5-2 p for; 2. Jahrandi 11-4; 3. Mardond 33-1. B ram. 5-2 p for Five Fings (Arp., 4-, 7-, (Mos M Revery), Totale £3.50; £1.40, £1.30, £7.30. DF: £6.60, CSF: £9.64, Trazast; £170.68, NRs: Crazy Home Dencer, Green-Beld Menor.

2.45: 2. BRIGHTER SHADE (P Neer) 10-11 fay, 2. Bullyline 5-1; 3. Golden Hollo 13-8. 4 mm, 3, 12. (Mrs M Reveley). Tota: £1.90. Dual Forecast: £3.00. Computer Straight Fore-

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r: F5.49. 3.15: 1. GOOD VIBES (L Wyer) 4-11 for, 2. Artistroch Prince 3-1; 3. Starfin Sam 33-1. 6 ram. 3, 25. (f Ensterby). Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £1.10, £4.50. DF: £1.40. CSF:

£1.20, £1.10, £4.50. Dr: £1.40. Cor: £1.93.
3.45: 1. MENIMORE-SPEED (Richard Guest 5-1; 2. Deep Decision 7-1; 3. Reyal Vecadios 4-1.5 San. 5-4 fav Rendom Harvest turseated rider). 17, 4. (Mrs. S. Smith). Total £5,70; £2.00, £2.20. Dr: £15.30. GSP: £32.32.
4.15: 1. MINGS SERMON £ Wyerl 9-2; 2. Tieo Gold 7-1: 3. Cool Weather 11-2. 6 ran. evens fav Gaeld: Blue fright, 11, 1.14. (Peaumond. Total £5.10; £2.10, £3.40. Dual Forecast: £29.00. CSF: £32.10. Only three finished.

4.45: 1. KIERCHEM (Mrs S Grant) 8-1; 2. day'n'aktch 7-1: 3. Faithful Hand 3-1. 10 ram. evers for Frup Sacotte (5th). 14. 12. (C Grant). Totac £10.30; £2.50, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £40.50. CSF: £61.53. Treast: £194.28.

### £194.28. Piacapot: £190.00, Quadpot: £29.50. Piaca 6: £392.69. Piaca 6: £214.10. WINCANTON

2.00: 1. MRS EM II. Currores 2-1 p-fair.
2. Royal Ruter 14: 1; 3. Neaf Fast 2-1 p-fair.
5. Royal Ruter 14: 1; 3. Neaf Fast 2-1 p-fair.
5. San. 19. 19. (P Nicrofic). Total 53.10;
51.20, £3.20, £1.40, Dual Forecast: £13.70.
Computer Straight Forecast: £31.98.
2.30: 1. STRONESAVER 04 Berry 5-1; 2.
Dromhans 4-7 fair. 6 rem. 20. (C Brook).
Total £6.40; £2.30, £1.50. Dual Forecast: £2.90. CSF: £8.70. Non Rumer: Positie
Gaoline.

Goolthe.
3.00: 1. PROUD MAGE (R Hobsor) 2-1;
2. Ath Cheecmaithe 5-1; 2. Airsage 3-1.5
rin. 6-4 fw Peet Cadet (4th). 5, 10, (6 Mo-Court. 7 rote: £2.40; £1.40, £2.30. DF.
£11.60. CSF: £12.51;
3.30: 1. SEVSO (P Heritey) 11-2; 2. Miss
Marigold 3-1; 3. Virtage Chart 2-1. 4 rea.
6-5 fw Serticia Boy (fell). 2, det. (R Bater).
Tote: £6.30. Dual Forecast £13.50. CSF.
£22.57;

22.57.
4.00: 1. CORPUS (D.) Keugragh 11-1.
2. Olihirar Duckett 11-2. 5 mar. 13-8 mm.
Northern Binger. 25. (R. Hodges), Tota:
£11.30; £3.20, £2.30. Dusi Forecast.
£19.30. CSF: £61.79. Non Ruoner. Beau Bebillerd.

2.19.30. LST 202.19. Past russ 19.40. 2. Southernbay Boy 16-1; 3. Regel Gent 7-2. 8 ran. events favourite Mr Strong Gels (4th. 15, 3%. U Critical, Total 23.30. £1.50. £4.50, £1.10. Dual Forecast; £46.30. CSF: £37.43. Place 6: £723.06. Place 5: £494.92.

### FAIRYHOUSE

3.55: 1. MIDANIM (J FTIdey) 13-2; 2. Ambie Speedy 14-1; 3. The Grey Monk 9-2 for, 4. Papillon 6-1, 20 spn. srd-hd, 11 [Mri. ] Pitmani. Tote: E5.00; £1.40, £3.90, £2.30. £1.80. Reverse: £90.00. CSF: £79.34. Thouse: £427.72. Nonlemmer: Reyal Mountaments.

المعكذا من المذعبل

10-2

10-1

14-1

16-1

25-1

40-1

40-1

66·1 100-1

100-1 100-1

200-1 100-1 200-1 150-1

100-1 150-1

33-1,

20-1 20-1

Grand National Handicap Chase acceptors (4m 4f)

(Traverteright) ord Ordens (S Brookshow/9-413b) Day C Brooks/10:43th White Hide (A L T Moore 9st 13th)

Go Relietic U ("Shea/9588th) Time For A Run (E O'Grady 9-13th)

Legopia (Mrs. ) Branco Set 13(b)

Select Found (Mrs. J. Primary 2st 10th) 10-1 Belevior King (P. Nicholls (10st 1b) 16-1

obbased Bounce (G Richards 10st (b) 25-1

National Lad (Mrs. J. Pitman 10s(9th) 25-1

Behope Hall (H De Bromhead 10st1lm) 40-1

River Mandate (1 Forster Rst12to) 40-1
Steam Stephenic (G McCourt Rst12to) 40-1

Coleie Abbey (Mrs. C Hardenge/Bet 7th 100-1

Dalcyne Boy (N Twistori-Davies/Bst9th) 6F-1 Prendelica (M Proc Res 10th) 100-1 Pulp Of Custs (Mass H Knight Ratifile) 50-1

lot Knight (N 7-Daues/8st6lb)

Contraction U Cattord 850

Plak Gie IM Hammond/Sst)

Master Boston (R Woodhouse 9st 3b) 100-1 100-1

Don't Light Up (Mrss V Vidkoms/Bst2tb) 200-1 100-1

Trender Trix (O lecholson/Sst12b) 33-1

trees Corse (N Cassiee-3st7lb) 68-1 50-1

antee P Honbs/8si2th 100-1 6G-1 66-1 66-1

Over The Stream M Miligan/88(20) 150-1 100-1 200-1 66-1

Plustic Spaceage (J Old Rs 27b) 200-1 100-1 200-1

Each-way a quarter the olds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Antroc, Saturday)

100-1 100-1

Challenger Du Lttd (M Pros)10st9lb)

Depters Dave (Simon Earle/9s/13(b)

Pasthered Gate (A L 7 Moore 10st3h)

Northern Hide (M Salaman/9st)

Vallent Warrior (M Herrmond 9stGlb)

Straight Talk (P Nicholis Sst. 45)

Monter Outs (K Barley 11st100)

New Co (M Morns 9s19th)

Mittellie (P Fahyr9st2th)

Kalenie (H Menners 9s130)

Auro Amson (M Camacho/10st/20) Lo Streetone (1 Jate | Del-Ith)

coord Wolfe (1 Forster/Sst8th)

# National set for **Pitman**

Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

When the great portfolio of dodgy photographs is cata-logued it may be that the Cot-tingley fairies and The Surgeon's image of the Loch Ness monster are joined in the album by the finish of the 1997 Irish Grand National.

To all who witnessed a trau-matic struggle up Fairyhouse's rising straight yesterday it appeared that the first nose past the line belonged to the home side's Amhle Speedy. When the Polaroid was peeled however the victor was announced as Jenny Pitman's Mudahim, A loose horse charging past the central combatants at the post in the opposite direction made detailed analysis of the closing

stages even more difficult.

Mudahim's success etched another line into the record book of British racing's grand dame, as Pitman completed a full set of National victories following previous glory at Aintree, and in the Welsh, Scottish and Midlands versions,

The vibes had been mixed before flag-fall. Only five Britishtrained runners had been successful in the event's 127-year history, but Pitman went into the race having already relieved the Irish of one of their treasured baubles, the Ladbroke

Hurdle, earlier in the year, Mudahim went into bat with seven other British beasts, the largest contingent ever to cross the water for the race. The challenge was soon diminished when Sister Stephanie decided not to bother. Aardwolf then had a lie down after the second obstacle, though he did take a

hand in the finish, travelling in the wrong direction.

There were other worrying signs for the travellers, who were reputed to require easy going to give of their best, as little puffs of dust appeared when hooves collided with the ground on landing side. This factor did for The Grey Monk, though the topweight still managed to slog his way round for third place. The grey at least will fight another day, which is not a senti-ment that can be applied to Coq Hardi Affair and The Latvian

> RECHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Campaign (Wetherby 3.20) NB: El Nido (Southwell 2.30)

Lark. Both gave their lives and made Noel Meade's Co Meath yard a less than joyous estab-

lishment last night.
At the finish though, it initially appeared that Arthur Moore and Francis Woods, successful last year with Feathered Gale, had won it again. Then it was announced that Jason Titley, who collected the Grand National for Weathercock House two years ago on Royal Athlete, had prevailed.
"If I had been beaten, miss-

ing out the third and second last which were dolled off to protect stricken horses] would have been what scuttled us," Titley said. "He was pricking his ears and enjoying jumping but he began to look around him and we nearly lost it close home.

"He was jumping for fun but he wasn't doing much when we hypassed the second last or when he regained the lead about 100 yards out. I'm surprised and



Jenny Pitman starts National week with Mudahim's win in yesterday's Irish version Photograph: Julian Herbert/Alisport

obviously delighted that the

verdict has gone our way,"
Pitman now has even more to chat about to Des at Liverpool at the end of this week. The Lambourn trainer is represented by Smith's Band and Nahthen Lad, who was sup-ported with William Hill yesterday, in the big one on Saturday. There were 45 left after yesterday's acceptance stage, the most significant being the top weight, Master Oats, who will be left in at least until his trainer, Kim Bailey, walks the course on Thursday morning.

The notable riding arrangement was Charlie Swan's decision to play musical saddles, to hed with him.

deserting Lo Stregone (who will now be ridden by Graham Bradley) in favour of Wylde Hide, who seems to have been hacked by anyone with a punt in their pocket in recent days.

By Saturday and Liverpool, Salvo Giannini, who heads the partnership behind Mudahim, may have recovered. Salvo lives in Chepstow, next door to David Broome, and when his pride and joy took the Racing Post Chase earlier this year he celebrated locally at the Tarn House pub. He eventually hit the sack at 6am and did not retire in story-book fashion with a teddy. He took a pint of lager

## Trix is at long odds to turn the scales

Lurking among the Grand National outsiders is a horse for whom Saturday is the outcome of a plot hatched by his owner seven years ago. Turning Trix will carry the famed black and yellow colours of Mel Davies, who bought him in Ireland in 1990 with the express intention of owning an Aintree con-

Turning Trix was then a three-year-old, Now he is 10 and the sole National candidate

rides. It could be that the Tote's 50-1 will prove generous.

Davies is also the owner of Barnbrook Again, magnificent winner of the Queen Mother Champion Chase in both 1989 and 1990. "Barnie" was yesterday munching grass in his retirement field on a stud farm

prompted Davies to seek a re- weight, Master Oats, is with-

"He was bought specifically as a Grand National horse," Davies said, Certainly his pedigree, by Buckskin ant of Merry Run, a Deep Run mare, should ensure stamina is not the main problem. The biggest obstacle is that Turning Trix, along with others, is currently set to be hurdened with considerably more weight than their handi-

placement - one capable of stay-ing a marathon distance.

He was bought specifically

says his runner hails from a family noted for not reaching their peak until the age of nine or 10. The horse is definitely in form, having won a good race at Newbury last time out. Davies says Turning Trix acts on any going and has backed him for Sat-urday. "That 50-1 is an excellent

Chris Corrigan

### UTTOXETER

2.10 O MY LOVE (nap) 2.40 My Nomine 3.10 Bluntswood Hall 3.40 Beatson

HYPERION 4.10 Charming Girl 4.40 Pearl Epee 5.10 Laburnum Gold (nb)

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Left-hand course, Rui-in of 170yd.

Course is SE of town rear B5017. Station (Derty-Crewe line) adjoins course, ADMISS Club 516 (OAPs 512); Tattersolls 516 (OAPs 57); Course 54. CAR PARK: Pres.

SIS CHANNEL

Ī	2.10	CENTRAL TELECOM/SDX NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,537
1	- 45040	THE A COURT WITH THE PARTY LANGE AND PROJECT AND PROJECT AND PARTY LANGE AND P
2	15F25P	ALPINE MIST (27) (D) (Calch-42) J O'Shee 5 11.5 M A Fitzgerald V
3	204004	CONTROL MATERIAL MATERIAL MATERIAL INVESTIGATION IN MATERIAL STATE A CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE
4	400	CYPHRADIS (54) (Molicon) Pic & Pat Whelen) Mrs J Pamen 6 11.3
5	045230	DARK PHOENIX (20) (BF) (O Brennan) O Brennan 7 10 10
6	30-2365	POLICIANO PER ONE I K Postreggi I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
7	0-55343	DESERT CALM (13) (R N Fuller) P Serie 8 10 8
B	2-00001	KALDROMANY CASTLE (14) (CD) (Natrum Partnersho) J RisGerati 5 10 6
a	DECISEA	O MY LOVE (50) OA C West Miss H Kright 6 10 6 Cohome

9 0F-0584 O ARY LOWE (50) OH C Wiecs Mass H Knight 6 10 8 J Ostrono
10 020U21 Maskit BOAT (10) OH Boy-Copon, V Lockey & J Dovins W City 8 10 6 Any Looks (3)
11 43FFP2 COUNTRY MINISTREL (14) (5 A Douch 5 Douch 6 10 0 C Alex
12 FODS APOLLONO (14) (Malgrove International Lin) R Lee 5 10 0 S Lockes Byros
13 OP/503 WORTHY MESHORIES (8) RAS E M Bousquet-Profet Mas M Jones 8 10 0 Douch Byros
14 500 FEMORY S QUEST (20) IS Postard T Forser 4 10 0 S Wymno
15 Q450 ERROYS (AD (557) (Anthony Smith) R Dictor 5 10 0 S Wymno
15 declared —
Maintann weight: 10st Title handloop weights: Apollono 9st 12th, Monthly Memories Set 22th, Fance's Quest

Minimum werger: 10st. The remains regarding the part of the process. 7-1 Country Ministret, 9-1-Stylesty Ministret, 9-1-Styles

1996: Soldwyn 4 TO 13 A P McCoy 9-1 (D Nacholson) 15 cm
PORAN GRIDE

By the time KR.DKILINIAY CASTLE got his preferred conditions of two miles and good ground bere test time, he had become better handicopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So there was obviously every chance of on improved performance in what was a weeken contact confined to conditional notes and, always traveling well for Finder Leafly, he best the running on Country Miliniabel by hold a length. Nideturmay Castle goes unperdised and, shouls to Leaflyk chairs. In slightly begins in the hold a length. Nideturmay Castle goes unperdised and, shouls to Leaflyk chairs. In slightly begins in the hold arrival to the second to the control of the second to the control of the second to the control of the second to the second to the second of the second to the fact, but there is Castle will improve for that conditions-booster. He looked a bit of a one-peace on the flat, but there is count as shoul enough to suggest she can improve now that she has good in experience and gas the chance to tackle good gouted from a reasonable handlasp math. Cyphantis gave every instruction on his chance to tackle good gouted from a reasonable handlasp math. Cyphantis gave every instruction on his chance to tackle good gouted from a reasonable handlasp math. Cyphantis gave every instruction on his cancer in a machinth at Lingland next time and was then fined over box miles and three-parties at Vivince on a machine to Lingland next time and was then fined over box miles and three-parties at Vivince to the time to look at New York to a strong govern his least run at Humington when Sinthed over and might also dop tebur. Dark Proceeds can be forgother his least run at Humington when Sinthed over and might also can the run of the hond of the second of the second of the potential improves full to delete.

Selections NLDRILANAY CASTLE of the some the potential improves fell to deleter.

		MOUNT ARGUS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 7f Penalty Value £1,585	
	45	MOUNT ARGUS HUTTER CITY (	
12.	4U I	75 Danielly Value £1,585	
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	TO DO DE	RANG (22) DAIS U PROGRAMS O TRANSPORTE (7)	
-	0.11	TOTALE CONTROL (AND USE IN CONTROL OF A SAME PARKS IN 12 3 MT R PROPERTY (D)	
• •	16/024	FRANK RE LICKY (432) (New Column Mess) and a series (7)	
-		Manual Control of the	
4	40.05	INDITION HO (7) IE Kright) P California of According 10 12 3	
5 .	- 2 000	MALE OF SHILDONG (LD) (C) (CC) MARKET WAS A TO TO THE RESIDENCE (1) S	
6 5	13-01-0	The American Property of the Control	
7 1	33.50	MI MORE TO COMPANY A MOREN 7 123	
в 7	1.5370	NY MOMENTE (15) (ED) (DE PACHOS) O NACHOS 9 12 3	

BETTING: 18-6 My Nominee, 11-4 Frank Be Lucky, 9-2 triloffs, 6-1 Double Collect, 8-1 Pro Bono, 10-1 Babil, 14-1 King Of Shadows, Rising Sup, 16-1 kilomatic species on companying species. 1996e no corresponding race PORM QUIDE

The ground will need to be well watered to give the ex-lank FRANK RZ LUCKY a chance to show his true expr., but some of his randicing form makes that look a good bet to win this over a top which looks just about a first but, being without a size for 432 days. There is a chance he will be below his best and the about and the ground make the wind the being without a size for 432 days, there is a chance he will be below his best and he had about a chance of the first time). Creatment and here have most when the track the control of the size of the first between the Plags. His humanic is gardened to the first time of the size of the size of the first time is showed in two fundaments. Or control of the preferred to idiotic who should be capable of better than he should be LUCKY selections. Selections FRANK BE LUCKY and the size of the first time to the size of the first time in preferred to idiotic who should be capable of better than the first time to fundament.

3.10 MARSTON'S FREE TRADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £1,858	J. Carlo
TRADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE	l
3.10 MARSTON'S FREE TRADE SELLING THE SELLING STATES (CLASS G) £2,375 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £1,858	I
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CLASS W	L
3 4-10350 WHITE WILDW (10) Paul Springer T Wall 8 12 0 115 5 T Janks 5 (10350 WHITE WILDW (10) Paul Springer T Wall 8 12 0 115 5 T Janks 5 (10350 WHITE WILDW (100 Paul Springer T Springer	. –
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7:10-21 EDWARD SCYNEIAN & Garbetter 11 11 4	3
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4 ±130 BLIMTEROODS DANCER RISN; (25) (CD) (Mrs A Rodds) F JOHAN 9 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	5
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Form of these makes any exposal and a chance at sules that the admissibly moderate QUBET MOMERIES can park up now that he girs the chance to run of a few mark in a select on a decent surface, it is mainly gives took to suggest that he can empose enough to hear a house like the in-form Edward Seymour, but he did show some signs of shally when a saming on earth of 15 in a 12-keinong handleap or Courtels Just under a year ago and the fact that Pax Murphy is perseved as suggests that Quest Momeres sent without hope. Edward Seymour can on exchanging once is be second to Knight in Sele in a Banger sellor a more in ap before warning a handleafor saling handleap with a bit in hand. The hear does not amount to much, but size is now so probedy no before; Capatals Marver looks a difficult inde, but it is possible he is well bendespeed if he gets the pun of the race. The booking of Mick Fragerald lends encouragement, while the enginesion within Willow and Polic Powy are others with credentials.

Selection: QUBET MOMERIES

CLASS C) £6,500 added

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: K Balley — 25 winners from 116 runcies
gives 6 success ratio of 21.6% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 53.53; I Nicholson —
21 winners, 23 runners, 12.6%, ~53.50; O Sherwood — 18 winners, 85 runners, 27.7%,
+516.23; Miss H Kalght — 14 winners, 66 runners, 21.2%, +512.10.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: E Dunwoody — 40 wunters, 168 rides, 23.6%, ~64.82; J Osbore — 23 winners, 33 rides, 30.1%, +577.21; A Magnire — 24 winners, 116 rides,
20.7%, +53.65; N Williamson — 23 winners, 141 rides, 16.3%, ~617.78.

ELINEERSD PIEST TIME: Wordenstith (3.10).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Goff Land (2.10) has been sent 190 miles by L Lungo from
Lamber Currenterstown. Dumilries.

CENTRAL TELECOM/SDX NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE

(CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,537.

1 145310 FNA DREMBER (29) (b) Mass M Rossand M 12.3. M A Registral V

A

	,					
4.10 M	OBILEFONE 7,000 added :	GROUP 2m Pena	HANDICAP	HURDLE	(CLASS	B)
1 0-31270 51	AR BAGE (15) (D) () ARMING BAG, (USA)	David Abelly J	t Hares 7 11 11_		D Galler	cher

		£4,700 added zit renally value £4,700
		STAR BACE (15) (0) () David Abelly J L Harms 7 11 11 D Gallagher
	0-42065	CHARGONG REEL (USA) (31) [CD] (C Coven) O Sherwood 6 11 3
	204-41F	TEJANO GOLD (USA) (96) (CD) (P Bodie) P Bradley 7 10 12S Wymne
		MR BUREAUCRAT (NZ) (ZD) (CD) (SF) (Stories W Clerke) S Smokatew 8 10 7C Maude
	322311	DARAKSHAN (ZT) (Anched H West) Mass H Waght 5 10 0 Calloty
•	060335	TEST MORCH (\$15) (CD) (K) Outson) W Clay 10 10 0
	1-0	SERROUS (112) (CD) (SF) (Tony and Dec Louesdo) K Bailey 7 10 0S McNell

1	4.40	CJ PEARCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,550	D)	£5,000	addec
_					
1	F-50P11	QUITE A MAN (8) (C) (W R J Exercity S Brodehow 9 12 0			_C Mande
5	5F4P31	PEARL EPEE (10) (Mrs A A Shuses) O Nacholson B 11 3			R Johnson
3	B1433F	GLAMANGLITZ (29) (Mrs. Jule Mentri) P Delton 7 11 2		W R TI	omice (5)
7		RAFIE OCCURANCE (\$3) (R H Hems; J O'Shes 7 11.2			
4	4-0-30	URBN and debate and better by the stand to desire . The a summer			

20-1 Total Assist.

1996: Merin's Led 7 11 2 M A Flugsesid 5-6 () Edwards; 4 ren
PORM GRODE

82.AMANNELTZ might have his work out ran against the in-form pair Quitte A Main and Powel Epon, but he equid have been a creatpable ascard to Highbouth at Docassiar less since, houng jumped soundly until utiling at the stard last, and he could be helped by the signity longer true. Getting 12th from Quitte A Main gues hant a charges and Peorl Epon had had a feet problems with her jumping until naming at Bangor less times where she was noted to dominate and zen the high out of Campedia Bay. Quite A Main carried 12st 20s to viscopy at Liabfow ked princ, but this said is a Tougher one. Suit, he is no in less truck now and some to a wat now that the hear somed out the surround.

Selection: QLAMANGLITZ

-			
[	5.10	JENKINSONS CATERERS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,432	:)
•	A DOME	AT DUA 1 CATUETO (201) (Prodin Record   Goresick 6 11 8	ġ.
÷	200	FREND (SS) (P A Montheau) R Balley 6 11 6	à
2	D-003	THE 100) IT A HELICAN TO THE 1	Ξ
3	000	F ONLY (496) (D Love) R Holinshead 7 11 8	
ī	DEMONDE.	THE CAME CAPAN (17) (F.R. DIRECTOR) W. CON 7.11.5	3
3	GI-00-FI	Tiest	-
5	2322)+	KALADROSS (139) (Roy Housel) W Jerie 6 11 6T Jest	-
8		anabel eras PAD (loho Medo) R Chemnion & 11 6	2
2		LABORALLIM GOLD (77) (A kaplen and R & O Johnson) Mrs I Planen B 11 B D Lash	-
ſ	240	DEDUCATE COLD (1) IN INDICATE OF THE PROPERTY	3
я		POLAR WIND (N Waggott) N Waggott 8 11 6 M Fost	Ŧ
ž		SICARIAN (F.) Sensbury) Mrs Mente Jones 5 11 6	
ě		SLAPARE F J SHISHING WAS INCOME.	3
10	02	SEMALLI (USA) (1/4) (Am High Partnersho) M Meager 5 11 6	3
	~~~	VADLAMYS (FR) (30) (Servicy W Chale) S Brookshaw 6 11 6 C Manual	
11	<b>33-3</b>	MULANTS (I'M) (M) (See 1)	-
12	P	KINES OF SPARTA (68) (Darten C Mercer) O Sherwood 4.11 0 D Buildonn	ď

BETTIME: 7-4 Variances, 8-4 Laboration Sold, 6-1 King Of Sparts, 8-1 Press, 12-1 Keladross, 14-1 Scools, 18-1 Scools, 20-1 others 1996: Country Star 5-11-2 G Stadley 3-1 (C Brooks) 15 can press starts?

Sieve Brockchaw will be anticipating a good run from Quite A Men in the pravious sees and must also have high hopes of the French-bried VEDILWAYS, who had just moved into a challenging position when folling times out in Fland's rask at Bangtor less time. He had out a promoting cale at Warnets presounly and he was a Entiry Two senses in France as a time-year-old. Laborators Gold looks the big danger. He needed the outling at Lacoster ket time and ringits just need this one, loo, But this well-related gating and shown promise previously and there could be a fair he of improvement in the looker. Selection: VADLAWYS.

■ Best prices on Thursday's John Hughes Trophy Handicap Chase over 2m6f of the National fences at Afairec: 7-1 (C. T) Endipe; 9-1 (T) As Do Trelle; 9-1 (C) Romany Creek, 9-1 (C, T) Tho Plush, 10-1 (C, T) Element, 10-1 (C, H, T) Golden Spinner, 10-1 (T) Endi, 10-1 (C, H, T) Senor El Bernuti, 12-1 (H, T) Flimsy Bruth, 16-1 (C) The Frog Prince, 20-1 (C, H) Bells Life, 20-1 (T) Coonawara, 20-1 (C, H, T) No Prim No Gain, 25-1 (H, T) Change The Reign, 25-1 (C, H, T) Kings Cherry, 25-1 (H) Rouyan, 33-1 (C, H) Saflor Jim, 33-1 (C, H, T) Yooman Warrior, 40-1 (T) Aly Daley, 40-1 (H) Master Boston, 40-1 (T) Poud Rome, 66-1 (T) Flapjack Lad, 190-1 (H, T) Cropedy Lad, 150-1 (T) Grüfins Bur, 250-1 (T) Super Sandy, C - Coral, H - William Hill, T - Tote

### from the top stable of David west of Duhlin, It was Barnie's cap rating - 16lb in his in-Nicholson. John Kavanagh impending retirement that stance. Only if the present top WETHERBY HYPERION

2.20 Southern Cross 2.50 Regal Romper 3.20 Campaign 3.50 Ivy House 4.20 Denim Blue 4.50 Last Try

GOING: Good (Good to Pirm in places).

Left-hand oval exemit. Run-in of 200yds stightly uphilt.

Counse is NE of toys on BEED! near junction of 428 and A1.

ADMISSION: Zaba: Exit: (accesspanied under-16s free): Tatter-salls \$8; Course: \$2 [ONP951] (cars, including up to 4 adults 58).

BLINESRED FIRST TIME: Fox Sparrow (4.50). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Father Sky (3.50) won at Southwell on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: R N Commander (4.20) has been sent 22 miles by J Cornwall from Gravesend, Kent.

2.20 W CLIFTORD WATTS LTD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 4f 110yds 

2.50 FERDY MURPHY'S OWNERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,300 added 2m

2280-9F DE JORDANN (163) (ICD) W Curnoghem 10 12 0 ....N South 322224 RESAL ROMPER (21) (ICD) kins 5 Smith 9 11 4 "Richard Genet 51-1633 GROUSE-N-HEADHER (17) (IC) (ICF) P Mortesit B 10 3 A Cooloin

4 3662P5 REBEL KING (26) (0) M Barres 7 10 0 B Storey

- 4 decirad 
Minimum weight 10st Tunk handeny weight Robel Mng Sur 7b.

RETRINS: 13-8 Stones N Hantber, 9-4 De Jordans, 3-1 Regal Romper,

SOUTHWELL

HYPERION

2.00 Raffles Rooster 2.30 Shakiyr 3.00 Zorba 3.30 Daawe 4.00 Julia's Relative 4.30 Tayovullin

GOING: Standard, STALLS: 5f & Im 8f - outside: rest inside.

BLINKERED FIRST THEE: Unknown Territory (4.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Dancing Cavaller (4.00)

won at Caterick on Wednesday. LONG-DESTANCE EURNEERS: Raffles Rooster (3.00) 2 Cannie's Fun-tory (4.00) sent 235 miles by A Newcombe from Humahaw, Devon,

2.00 APRIL FOOL APPRENTICES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 6f

2.30 SWAN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2m

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BETTIME: 7-4 II Wide, 8-1 Kalemata, 9-2 Stanleys, 8-1 Lordan Velvet, 10-1 Select Keytes, Top Prize, 12-1 others

3.00 HERON MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E)

£4,025 added 1m 3f

26500-5 FOURDAMED (12) P Hirms 4 10 0... 00000- FORMIDABLE FLAME (181) W MASS

[	3.20	LAMBSON HAND C) £5,000 added	DICAP HURD d 2m 4f 110	LE (CLASS lyds
1	112-100	EXECUTIVE DESIGN (20)	Mrs M Reveley 5 1	20 P Niver
2		FIRED EARTH (31) (D) J		
Э	13-7314	CELESTIAL CHOR (22)	DJ J L Eyra 7 11 4.	B Storey
4	0-25453	FOURTH IN LINE (6) M W	Moneton 9 11 4	W Marston
5	6-15323	DOMAPPEL (17) (D) Mrs	J Dect 5 11 2	T Xent
•	ar /***	THE WANTED AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON ADDRESS OF THE PE	M I I'- A	

SETTING: 4-1 Campaign, 9-2 Remappel, 5-1 Celestial Chair, 13-2 Fined Earth, 7-1 Executive Design, 8-1 Teresday Highl, 10-1 Shara Options, 12-1 Alcism Bloo, 14-1 Fourth in Line, Stats Leat, 20-1 Kinda Groovy

3.50 SEBEL NOVICE 'NATIONAL' H'CAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 3m 5f £4,711 

— 4 deciated — Minmum weight 102, The him being by St. BETTING: event by House, 11-8 Fother Sky, 7-1 Mister Trick, 14-1 The Whole Hog

4.20 HOWARD BROWN NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m 1f 

- 5 declared - 5 declared - 8ETTRES: 4-9 Declared Bise, 7-2 Tom Log, 7-1 R N Communder, 14-1 Sovereigns Match, 18-1 Syrus P Turntable

4.50 HENDERSON INSURANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 

### -9 declared 8E770KC: 5-2 Roneion Rancel, 7-2 Sanonid, 4-1 Decent Fighter, 7-1 Lest Try, 10-1 Anabranch, Bures, 12-1 Holders Hill, Railton, 16-1 Fox Spinrow \_\_\_\_C Bar

Minimum neight: 7st 10th. Thus handcap neights: Morte Chio 7st 8th. Septimber 7st 7th, Managar LLC, 7st 8th. Asystem Luber 7st 7th, Ser Andre Chio 7st 8th. Septimber 7st 7th, Managar LLC, 7st 6th. Asystem Luber 7st 4th, Ser Alexal 6st 8th. BETTIME 2.5 Zoota, 5.1 Hompipe, Happy Brave, 6-1 Monte Cavo, 8-1. Montelard, 10-1 Foundaned, 16-1 others

3.30 DAVED ARMES HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f

4.00 JAY SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £2,875

added 3YO 6f | Octobed 370 67 | Octobed 370 | Octobed

- 9 deciared -BETTING: 5-2 Julie's Relative, 11-4 Ma Vielle Pouque, 3-1 Jack Says, 9-2 Concorde, 10-1 Advance Regre, 18-1 Unknown Territory, 20-1 others 4.30 PEACOCK HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 370 7f

Minimum weight Tot 10ke, Tale handered to the hander Tot 10ke, Total Like, Tale handered to the handered to th at the weights. On the positive side, Davies

price," he insists.

### **Aspell** defends Lively ride

The jockey Leighton Aspell of his riding of the defeated 1-7 favourite Lively Knight at Plumpton on Saturday. The gelding's owner, Alan Weller. has threatened to withdraw his horses, including the leading novice hurdler Boardroom Shuffle, from the stables of Lively Knight's trainer, Josh Gif-

Weller maintained that Aspell rode "against orders" in the three-runner novice chase in which Lively Knight was never able to get to grips with the win-ner, Stormhill Pilgrim, who made most of the running under Gifford's stable jockey. Philip Hide.

Yesterday Aspell. a condi-tional rider, said: "It wasn't a fixed race at all. The horse just didn't go on the ground and he seemed over the top as he gave me no feel at all. Any professional could see from a long way out that he wasn't going on the ground. I won on him before but that was nn soft going."

Gifford said that Weller had yet to pass on to him a decision on his charges. "I've not heard anything more from him today." the trainer said. "I am obviously hopeful of keeping the horses."

### Lewis ends lean spell

Geoff Lewis came back from the wilderness with a 135-1 double at Kempton Park yesterday. The Epsom trainer tasted success for the first time since last August with Strathmore Clear (11-2) and Eastern

Prophets (20-1). Lewis said: "I thought my horses had been running a gallop short, but they are back in form, and last season's problems are behind us. I think I've gnt a really nice hunch of horses.

"The owners have been very patient. Remember last season was the first bad year I've had. bar my first year when I couldn't train. I had five winners in my first season. The first came on the opening day and it took me all year to get the other four."



# From Alphington to Willand via the Duckspond

Over Easter more than 300 football fans travelled to Devon from all over Britain and beyond to watch seven lowly non-League matches.

**Rupert Metcalf** joined them with one question in mind: Why?

f your football watching does not extend beyond enduring some Premiership hard-sell on satellite television or maybe the occasional expensive trip to Old Trafford or Wemhley, the chances are you will not have heard of groundhoppers.

They are supporters who, rather than follow one team, spend each season touring the country "collecting" new grounds. Which side wins is rarely relevant, it is the "tick" (and the programme) that matters. Many completed all the Football League grounds years ago. so non-League football is their usu-

al territory – although they often spend their holidays doing the same thing all over Europe.

For the last five years the high point of the groundhoppers' calen-dar has been the Easter "Northern Hop", which featured four days of morning, afternoon and evening kick-offs around the North-east of England. The hoppers have run out of new grounds in that part of the world, though, so this year they headed west for the first of three "Devon Delights Annual Hops" staged by the Westward Developments Devon League.

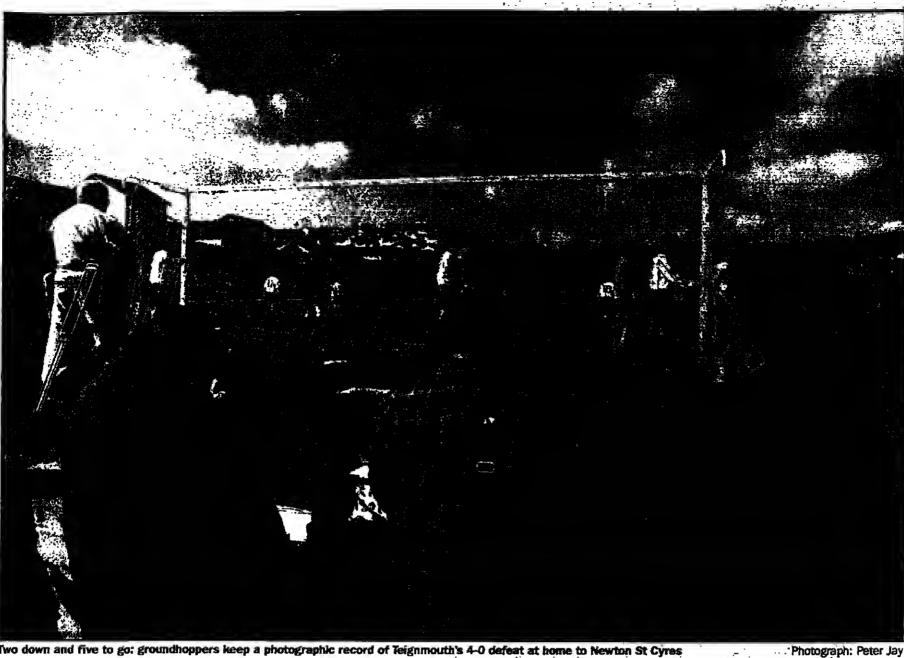
The schedule was compact but punishing: four games on Good Friday and three the following day. Two coaches carried the hoppers around the county. The first event - a football quiz in Topsham Town's bar had taken place on Thursday evening, but the real action began the following morning...

Friday, 1.1am kick-off

ALPHINGTON

Alphington, on the outskirts of Ex-30. Today they set a new Devon League record attendance of 537, heating the crowd of 503 for the league's very first game, hetween Willand and Newton Abbot, in 1992.

Phil Hiscox, the league's secretary, who has organised the whole event. is relieved that the action is under way at last. "It's been pretty heetic for the last two months," he says. We've sold 270 advance tickets for all seven games and we've had lots era crews. Alphington take a 2-0 half-



Two down and five to go: groundhoppers keep a photographic record of Teignmouth's 4-0 defeat at home to Newton St Cyres

Hiscox expects up to 100 hoppers to pay on the gate for all or some of the seven games to swell the coffers further. "The host clubs will make money. The league won't make much, but that's not the point."

Gerry Shepherd, a hopper from Wimbledon, produces (without prompting) a photograph of himself and his friends Steve Reancy and Joho Stancombe, taken on a foggy Sunday morning at Horden Colliery Welfare during the "Northern Hop" go. "I support football," Shepherd says. "I just go round all the grounds and see the games. The team. Teignmouth are in a bit of a beauty of these places is that you can walk right round the ground and have a drink here afterwards. At those Premiership places you're segregated, you can't do this, you can't do that. Sometimes you daren't shout out any-

thing for fear of retribution." As the Portakabin toilet block quivers under the weight of two cam-

of late applications and enquiries . time lead against their local rivals, whose second-half pressure yields only one goal. Even though this is the first game, some of the hoppers are finding it hard to concentrate on the action. A group of five gathered near the exit for a quick getaway are discussing which Portuguese Second Division grounds they have been to.

Friday, 2pm

TEIGNMOUTH ... **NEWTON ST CYRES** 

but they easily overcome the home state: they were deducted six points early in the season for fielding unregistered players and had a minus points tally for the first few weeks of the campaign. They eventually won three games but were docked three more points for the same offence so. having lost the rest of their matches, they are at the bottom of the table

The picturesque Coombe Valley ground, in a steep valley high above the sea from, suffers from subsidence. One side of the pitch is sliding slowly down the hillside, and today timeat-

ens to take several hoppers with it. Bizarrely, Teignmouth field one of the most skilful players seen all weekend: Colin Anderson, once of West Bromwich, Torquay and Hereford. All his efforts go to waste, though, as Teignmouth's goalsagainst column reaches 149.

Friday, 4.30pm NEWTON ABBOT SPURS

NEWTON ABBOT ..... A delayed kick-off as tractors on the road from Teignmouth have slowed

the convoy of hoppers. For the second time today, a new league attendance record is set as the hoppers plus plenty of locals swell the crowd to 612 for this derby. Spurs are convincing winners of a competitive game not without skill.

Scots' flying start

One of the more dedicated hopfrom Glen Palmer is the highlight of pers is Peter Wallis, from Burgess the weekend's most entertaining Hill: "I've been to about 1,300

grounds. I used to support Crystal Palace home and away. I finished the Football League in 1979, but watching League football became too much hassle. You're always herded

Hoppers have come from all over England, Scotland and Wales, while two - Henk van der Sluis and Johannes de Boer - have come from the Netherlands. "People might think that we are slightly eccentric the years doing something we both enjoy. We've become pen-friends with many other hoppers."

Friday, 7.30pm

**BUCKFASTLEIGH RANGERS .....5 IVYBRIDGE TOWN** 

On a perfect floodlit pitch at the Annes-based company, commis-Duckspond ground, which has neither wildfowl nor water, a hat-trick weekend's events. "They've internext year."

Miller, the author of the acclaimed book The History of Non-League Football Grounds, "and each time they've mentioned trainspotting. We're not all like that, we're just foot

The hoppers are sensitive about sentences containing the words "trainspotting" and "anoraks". These may be unfair stereotypes but, viewing the favoured mode of clothing even on a warm afternoon, it is easy to forgive literal use of the lat-

Saturday, 3pm NEWTON ST CYRES

A splendid, rural location for a match in which the visiting team from Plymouth take a 2-0 lead before Mark Tasker converts his third penalty of the weekend to give the home side a consolation goal.

One of the Dutchmen is by now

refusing interviews, and is attempting to confuse inquisitive reporters by sporting a Scotland supporters' hat. He rather gives the game away. though, by wearing clogs.

A small train speeds through

Newton St Cyres station, next to the ground, on its way from Exeter to Barnstaple. Hardly any hoppers turn round to look, proving that they re-ally are not trainspotters. After the game Peter Wallis and about 30 other hoppers run over a railway bridge to sample the ales at The Beer Engine, one of Devon's most famous home-brew pubs, before the coaches depart.

Saturday, 6.30pm

WILLAND ROVERS. TEIGNMOUTH

Colin Anderson has disappeared but Teignmouth have borrowed several players from clubs in higher leagues and shock the Devon League leaders with a third-minute goal from Richard Jones. They hang on for a totally unexpected win which puts their points fally back into the black again. Some locals mutter about checking the registration forms of all the "borrowed" merce-

Sir Bert Millichip, the former chairman of the Football Association, is here, along with Exeter City's former England international, Mark Chamberlain, to present certificates to the hoppers who have watched all

as blun

EILHE

seven games. "I've got a holiday home in Beer [a nearby seaside town]," says Sir Bert, to explain why he is at Willand rather than Wembley to watch England play Mexico. "I always thought a hop was a dance," adds Sir Bert,

Phil Hiscox is walking round the pitch, assessing one last crowd fig-ure, which is 528. "Counting," he bellows at anyone who dares to interrupt him. Afterwards he says: "I'm going to sleep for at least 20 sioned by Channel 4, is taping the hours - and then we'll start work on

## Reading take silver

lpswich and Reading took the silver medals in the European Cup-Winners Cup competitions vesterday as Ipswich lost 4-1 to Kampong in Utrecht and Reading fell 7-2 to the Germans Gladhacher from Munich. However the England's Under 18s took the gold medal in a Six Nations' Tournament in Cologne following their 3-2 win over Germany.

Before a large crowd at Reading in the Prudential European Cup-Winners Cup fi-nal the host team were eventually beaten by a German machine in which Christoph subsequently named player of the final, was the destroyer. Reading, having survived early pressure, not helped by the temporary suspension of Mark Hoskin. pened the scoring in the 19th minute, when their captain, Jon Wyatt, named man of the tournament, burst through the massed German ranks to score a glorious individual goal.

The German response was quick and lethal - three goals in an eight-minute spell before the interval, two from Florian Kunz and the third from Arndt Kueskes. As Reading tried to get back into the game after the

STONES SUPER LEAGUE

Salford (14) 27, Paris St-Germain (12) **26. Salford: Tries** Rogers 2, Naylor, Smt; **Goals** Blakeley 5; **Drop** 

Goals Blakeley. Paris: Tries Bergman 3, Bird 2; Goals Robin-son 3. (3.195).

St Helens (22) 32, Sheffield Eagles (6) 12. St Helens Tries:

Hunte 3. Amold, Hammond Newlove; Gooks Briers 4. Sheffield

Tries Broadbent, Pinkney; Goals

Warrington (22) 35, Wigan (4) 24.

Warrington: Tries Vagana 3, Penny, Shelford, Tatupu; Goals Roper 5; Drop Goal Shelford, Wigan:

Tries Ellison 2, A Johnson, Mu-dock, Radlinski; Goals Famell 2. (7,213).

Aston 2. (10.344).

interval gaps opened in their de fence which the Germans punished with some delightful attacking hockey. Bechmann got their fourth before Michael Hilgers cashed in with a couple and Ulrich Klaus completed the scoring for an outstanding victory - the third successive year a German team has lifted the

The bronze medal was won by Grunwald, from Poland. when they beat Polo Barcelona 4-1 in a game which included 10 suspensions, including a permanent one from each side.

Following defeats of their sides in the morning Ireland and France have been relegated to next year's B Division. In Utrecht, Kampong took an early lead through Ellen Kuipers and although Tracey Fry equalised six minutes later the home team took over with further goals from Marlies Vossen, Jeanette Lewin and Anouk Verhaegh which ensured the Dutch took the

BLDENTIAL EUROPEAN CUP-Washter'S IP A Division Final: Gladbecher (Ger) 7 sating 2: 3/4th: Grunwett (Pol) 4 Pok ircelorus (Spin) 1. 5/8th: Amsterden 4 oce (til) 3; Eleatemburg (Rus) 3 Stack ancas [17] 3.Eksternburg wor 5 - 4 aps aland and France are relegated to the f

FIRST DIVISION

### **South Africa** are crushed by Waugh

South Africa 221-8 Australia 222-3 Australia won by seven wickets

Australia wor ross
SOUTH APRICA
A M Bacher c Beran b Dele...
L Koen c Merk Waugh b Dale...
I H Kalbi b Galespie
O J Collena b Dole
J N Rhodes c Reffel b Beven.
V J Conje b Gâlespie
S M Politock c Dele b Warre
L Mesenger our

5-213. Did not but: A A Doneid. Bowling: Refiel 9-0-33-0 (1nh): Date 7-3-18-3: Bleweit 10-1-42-0; Gliespie 10-0-51-2 (1w): Warne 5-0-39-1 (2nh 2w); Bevan 8-0-33-1. ISTRALIA E Waugh not out ... A Tanker C Cullings !

RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES

Dewsbury (9) 9, Hull (2) 16. Dewsbury: Tries Eaton; Goels Eaton 2; Drop Goels Eaton. Hull: Wies Danby, Dworty, Vaikona; Goels Hewitz 2. (1,937).

Hull KR: (12) 26, Workington (8) 12. Hull KR: Thes Chamberlain 2, Gene, Goulbourne, Rouse; Goals M Flatcher 3. Workington: Thes Campbell 2; Goals Kitchin 2. (2,208).

Wakefield Trinity (6) 10, Hudden field (18) 40. Wakefield Brinity: Big

field (13) 40. Walefield Trinty: Tries Kerworthy, Riva; Goals Davis; Hud-dersfield: Tries Hanger 2, Russell 2, Marsdan, Schofield, Weston; Goals Weston 6, (3,431).

Whitehaven (20) 30, Widnes (8) 14.

Whitehoven: Tries Joe, Lester, Lawthwaite, Muliumu; Goals Hetherington 6; Drop Goals Joe, Smith. Widnes:

Tries D Myler 2, Thorniley; Goels Lythe.

A hrilliant unbeaten 115 from Mark Waugh led Australia to a crushing seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the second of seven one-day internationals, in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

Waugh's 10th one-day century levelled the series and gave Australia a much-needed boost after 13 defeats in their last 19 one-day matches.

SECOND DIVISION

Barrow (10) 34, Prescot (4) 4. Barrow. Tries Atlanson, Hutton, Marwood, McMillan, Shaw, Sieter, Goels Marvood 5. Prescot: Goels Martin 2. (781).

Harstot (16) 44, Rookide (7) 12. Hun-elet: Tries Coult 4, Brooki 2, Marsson, Plange; Goals Booth 6, Rookidele: Tries Burnce, Crowther, Hayes; Goals Gart-land 2: Drop Goals Gartland. (1,280).

Lancashire Lynx (12) 31, Batley (10) 34, Lancashire Lynx Thes War-ing 2, Firmey, Soloman, Walsh; Goels Francis 4, Rizme; Drop Goels Ruane.

Francis 4, Rusne; Drop Gosis Rusne. Batley: Itles Barnett, Price, Thornton; Gosis Price, (493). Leigh (4) 4, Cartisle (16) 34. Leigh: Gosis Perigo 2. Cartisle: Tries Phodes 2. Thurlow 2. Manifiers, Menties; Gosis Richardson 5. (1,306).

York (24) 50, Doncaster (i) S. York: York (24) 50, Doncaster (i) S. York: Bles Fizgerald 3, Chapman 2, Ball, Green, Pinder, Goals Green 9, Don-caster: Tries Lidbury, (Watson. (775).

IAN CALLENDER.

reports from Kuala Lumpur

The second round of the Carlsberg ICC trophy for the 22 associate members below Test status gets under way here today without half of the top six seeds:

The exit of Bermuda, the United States and the United Arab Emirates has opened the way for Ireland and Scotland to dream about hosting games in the next World Cup, to be held in Britain in two years' time. Despite temperatures in excess of 40C, the visitors have been impressive, with Scotland, in their first tournament, winning Group D and Ireland finishing above the Americans in Group A.

The two teams are in different second-round groups and with continuing good progress they could yet meet on Thursday week in the third-place play-off with a spot in the World Cup finals as the prize.

The Netherlands, Ireland's opponents today, and Kenya, hom Scotland face on Friday in their last second-round game, are favourites to contest the final at the Tenaga National Sports Ground on Saturday week. That match, however, is likely to be played in front of an au-

dience exclusively situated in the pavilion. While Kuala Lumpur can provide the grounds—all the

matches are being played on eight perfectly sceeptable club pitches - spectator interest from the locals is minimal.

Two tents have been erected at each ground to provide the teams with protection from the unrelenting sun, and the lunches are served in purpose-built units with air conditioning at the whim of a generator on site. Promotion of the sport, which

proved by Tunku Imran, president of the Malaysia Cricket Association, who is also the son of the monarch Not only did he bring the ICC Trophy to Knala Limpur, but in his role as vice-president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, he was instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of

team sports for the first time in next year's Commonwealth Games in Malaysia. Every state has pledged to open one ground a year, adding up to 120 cricket pitches in the country within 10 years.

"Our development programme will be similar to that adopted by squash in the country and although it will take a few years for cricket to develop to that level, we have a wealth of raw talent available to work with," the prince said. CARLSBERG ICC TROPHY Qualifiers for sec-and round: Group A Kerye, Scotland, Cara-da, Denmerk, Group B The Netherlands, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Instand.

## **Elkington leaves Monty green**

Rob Hornby, the club shop man-

ager from Arnold Town in Notting-

hamshire, is doing a steady trade in

his book, Let's Get Hopping in the

Northern Counties East League. He

says: "This event is about meeting

old friends - and it's a break away

from the kids and the wife! But all

groundhoppers are like a little fam-

The Greenway Lane ground is well

named, as it is overlooked by rolling,

wooded hills. The pitch is not much

flatter, which makes good football

difficult, but the home side eventu-

A film crew from a Lytham St

Saturday, 12 noon

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON...

OTTERY ST MARY.....

ally gain control.

ily, really.

ANDY FARRELL reports from Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

For the Masters class in putting that both Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie feel they need for success at Augusta National next week, they could have was virtually non-existent until as redone worse than watch Steve cently as five years ago, has been im-Elkington win the Players' Championship for the second

"That is the best putting performance I have ever had," the Australian confirmed after clinching a seven-stroke victory in the first tournament to feature all the top 50 players in the world since the ranking started.

Elkington, who won \$630,000 (£400,000), was so sharp on the Sawgrass greens that Scott Hoch was ready to admit defeat, barring an "act of God", well be-fore the end. Hoch had been only two behind at the start of the final round, but was battling for second place after a double bogey at the fourth. "I guess there are only so

many eight and 10-foot putts given to each group and Steve was using up all ours." Hoch said. "If I had putted as he did, then it could have been a

Montgomerie finished 12 on holiday with his family at shots behind Elkington's 16 under total but added a seventh place to his record of 20th, fourth and 19th in his month on the Florida swing. Only one department of his game, he thinks, is holding him back from gaining his first US win. One of those missed opportunities

came when the Scot lost a playoff to Elkington at the 1995 USPGA at Riviera. "I personally thought it was a monumental effort to finish in the top 10 here the way I putted," Monty said. There was to be more in the same vein. "If I had putted half decently. I could have given Elkington a run for his money. I have

proved for 10 years as a pro that

I hit the ball okay, but the putting is my downfall. It was the same at Riviera. I could have won that by six shots." Montgomerie spent Sunday playing with Brad Faxon, one of the best at holing out on the US

tour, and arranged to play a practice round with the Amercan at Augusta a week today. "Roday was not the right time to ask him how he does it. I am No 3 in the world and I should win more than I do, and that is down to holing out. At Augusta, I will probably not spend much time on the course in prac-

Lake Nona, the complex where Faldo is based. His routine will be slightly different: the driving range in the morning and the gym in the afternoon. While you can prove anything with statistics, those from the Players' tend to support Faldo's case rather than Monty's.

Faldo, 24th overall, topped greens in regulation, was second in fairways hit but outside the top 50 in putts per greens in regulation, the category that Elkington topped. Montgomerie, however, was nowhere to be seen in driving accuracy, usually the bedrock of his game. Elkington had spent three

hours practising his putting in his hotel room waiting for his afternoon tee time. "I am thrilled with the way I won this tournament," he said. "I basically blew away the best field we have ever had and did it in good fashion. It sends out a message that has to be taken notice of. Winning from wire to wire was the most difficult thing I have had to do in golf."

The challenge facing John Daly is in a different league. The former USPGA and Open champion is returning to the Betty Ford Clinic in an attempt to overcome his alcohol dependency, putting a question tice, just on the putting green." mark against his participation Monty is spending this week in the US Masters.

## **Evans sees red as Salford soar**

Salford Reds moved to second place in Super League with a one-point victory over Paris at The Willows, with Darren

Rodgers scoring two vital tries. However, controversy cloud-ed the newly-promoted side's match award. win following the dismissal of the Paris centre: Mark Evans, for a high tackle on Nathan-McAvoy in the 16th minute. The Paris coach, Peter Mulholland, could barely contain

himself. "We felt the referee made a mistake, and the decision cost us the match," he St Helens also made it three

wins out of three, and lead Sal-ford on points difference. Saints overwhelmed Sheffield 32-12. with their centre, Alan Hunte, scoring a hat-trick of tries to earn bimself the man of the In the First Division, Hull stay.

to Workington, while White-haven beat Widnes 30-14, Leroy Joe and Aaron Lester among top thanks to a narrow 16-9 win away at Dewsbury. The home side had the best of the first half with Barry Ealon scoring a try, landing two goals and a drop

tries from Robert Danby, Tevi-la Vaikoua and Gary Divorty. Huddersfield maintain their unbeaten run at Wakefield Trainty to keep pressure on Hall, Danny Russell going over for two tries and the veteran Garry Schofield one. Mull KR won 26-12 at home

Carrisle now lead the Second Division, following a resoundgoal for a 9-2 half-time lead. But Half staged a rousing finish, with Rochdele slipping to a 44-17 defeat at Hunslet.

TODAY'S FIXTURES RNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier DIV

Southernd v Austrie (at Pir Park, Mothern

WIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE 

PONTINS LEAGUE Promier Division: mere v Sheff Wed 17.01, First Division: County v Port Vale (7.0); Presson v Shef (7.0); Wolveriempton v Middlesbroug (st Testord FC).

Rugby League

المكنا من المذهل

# Thomas inspires Wolves fightback

Football

NICHOLAS HARLING Queen's Park Rangers Wolverhampton Wanderers 2

For a team that had built its reputation on its performances away from Molineux, Wolverhampton Wanderers had looked vulnerable on their travels of late. Three successive defeats, all away from home, were in danger of becoming four when they trailed by two goals inside half an hour at Loftus Road yesterday.

Deciding then that with Rangers 'making runs off us for a laugh", the visiting manager, Mark McGhee, made two substitutions that changed the course of the game and possihly the whole promotion issue. Most significant was his introduction of Geoff Thomas.

Rangers, hitherto rampant, suddenly found they were in a match, which considering what had gone before proved doubly frustrating for their manager, Stewart Houston. "We were outstanding in the first halfhour," he said. "That was the

best I've seen from any First Divisioo side this season.'

Even Alex Ferguson, watching his son Darren in the Wolves midfield, must have been impressed by the slick one-touch play. Using fine an-gles, sharp passing and devas-tating runs off the ball, Rangers would have been out of sight by half-time had Daniele Dichio had any of the luck going.

Denied once by goalkeeper Mike Stowell's legs, the Samp-doria-bound forward also headed Paul Murray's cross against a post and was narrowly wide with another header. Douhtless Dichio must have

envied the header John Spencer placed beyond Stowell from Gavin Peacock's cross for bis 14th goal of the season. Peacock then lashed in the second after Simon Barker's cross had bounced off his chest.

Wolves protested that he had used a helping hand, hut the complaints were all from QPR when Don Goodman halved the arrears. Jürgen Sommer, according to the home side, was impeded by Iwan Roberts as he went for Steve Froggatt's corner.

Minus the suspeoded Steve Bull, Wolves eventually forsook their unedifying muscular approach for a more subtle one. personified by Simon Osborn's thoughtful passing. It was in pur-suing a ball threaded through by the midfielder that Goodman fell under Alan McDonald's clumsy challenge. The original referee, Steve Baines, had given way to a calf strain at halftime, but Roger Coxhead, who

Sommer's reach. As McDonald went to redeem himself by attempting a late winner, he sparked off an 18-man brawl, which brought no action from Mr Coxhead save a booking for the protesting Stowell, who had gone down under a heap of warring players. Queen's Park Rangers (3-4-3): Somme Yates, Maddix, McDoneld; Impay, Bark (Quashe, 77), Murray, Brevett: Peacock, D (Quashie, 77), Murray, Brevett; chio, Spencer (Slade, 77). Sut used: Graham.



### **Everton** to hire stop-gap manager

ANDREW MARTIN

The Everton chairman, Peter Johnson, is expected to appoint a caretaker manager for the rest of the seasoo today, following Joe Royle's departure last week. Johnsoo made it clear, however, that the position would be filled only as a stopgap, before a major name takes large at Goodison Park at the end of the season.

The news follows specula-tion that the Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, is the cluh's preferred candidate. Kinnear has already dismissed any move from Selhurst Park until the close season

Johnson said: "We are making a decision overnight about the caretaker manager, who will take us through the last seven games of the seasons."

Bournemouth are expected to announce before tonight's game against Stockport that their long High Court fight for survival with debts of £4.7m has been successful.

The Second Division cluh's trust fund chairman, Trevor Watkins, said: "We hope to declare plans to become Europe's

first community-owned club."
The trust fund, headed by Watkins and other prominent supporters to stave off liquidation, has been in negotiations throughout the Easter weekend with the cluh's creditors, including the Ioland Reveoue which is owed £250,000.

Scotland's main injury wor-ry for tomorrow's World Cup qualifier with Austria is Darreo Jackson. The Hibernian striker damaged his left shoulder during Saturday's 2-0 World Cup win over Estonia at Kilmarnoek.

Fabrizio Ravanelli will rejoin Middlesbrough on Thursday in preparation for Sunday's Coca-Cola Cup final against Leicester. Ravanelli is confident he will be fit for Wembley, after extensive treatment on a hamstring injury in Italy.

The Leeds midfielder Lee Bowyer will captain the England Under-21 side in today's frieodly against Switzerland at Swindoo's County Ground.

Bowyer, who trained with the full England squad in the huild-up to Saturday's 2-0 win The Barnsley manager, Dan- most thanks are due. When he silver lining, "You think you have over Mexico, becomes the fourth player to lead the side this season. He replaces Ricing-room and discover that with cardo Scimeca following the Asthe other results things are not ton Villa defender's withdrawal with a thigh injury.

With a (High III) III III. P.
ENGLAND U-21 v SWITZERLAND U-21 (Swindon FC): Day (Crystal Palacet Broome (Blachburn). Ferdinand (West Harn). Hall (Coverny). Carragher (Leepoub, Bowyer (Leets, cap), Holland (Borangham). Carbon (Derby, Huspess Wesnell). Huckerby (Coverny). Humphreys: IShettled Wednesday). Substitution: Brispose (Sheffigle Wednesday). Substitution: Brispose (Sheffigle Wednesday). Roberts (McKlesbourgh). Hoorie (Nathera). Bridges (Sanderland). Moore (Nottingham Forest).

Mills aids

**Port Vale's** 

challenge

As the battle for First Division

play-off places gathered pace yesterdey. Port Vale moved

into fifth with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Tranmere, Lee

Mills scoring either side of the

interval to cancel out Kenny

Fellow play-off hopefuls ip-

swich, who had striker James Scowcroft sent off for two book-

able offences in the first half, suffered a 2-1 defeat against

struggling Grimsby. Paul Mason

gave the visitors a 10th-minute

lead. but Clive Mendonca equalised four minutes later and

former Nottingham Forest strik-

er Jason Lee came off the bench for the 74th-minute winner.

Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, was escorted to the stand by security men after being or-

dered away from the dug-out for

protesting too vehemently dur-ing their 1-0 defeat at Bradford.

In the Second Division,

Brentford restarted their promotion challenge with a hardfought victory over Gillingham

as the top of the Second Divi-

The Bees, seemingly cruising towards the title earlier this

season, emerged from an in-

consistent run by claiming a deserved victory at Priestfield, but

they had to fight back after Iffy

Onuora's 22nd-minute opener.

Mark Janney and Carl Asaba

clinched the points with goals either side of the interval, but Bury

maintaiced their three-point advantage with a comfortable

2-0 victory over Wycombe.

sion remained unchanged.

Irons 23rd-minute opener.

### Blades beggar belief as Tracey adds to error count Canaries' ambitions head the ball against the bar be-fore it bounced behind him.

**GUY HODGSON** Huddersfield Town Sheffield United

Considering that Sheffield United were regarded as promotion favourites before a hall was kicked this season, they are making a fine old mess of turning opinloo into fact. Automatic elevation is a dwiodling hope and, after this latest reverse, even a play-off place that seemed to be a certain straw to cling to is in jeopardy.

They have not won away from Bramall Lane since Boxing Day and if they continue to hardly better but rode their luck

PHILIP BARTON

Reading

Bamsley

contribute to their own downfall like they did in this match it could be Christmas before they get three points on their travels again. With teams around them at the top of the First Division having games in hand, such generosity may bring its own lack of reward.

In a game awash with mistakes, United had Nick Henry sent off, gave away two sloppy goals and played with such a lack of conviction it was hard to imagine them making it to the Premiership whatever route is open to them come May. Huddersfield, who also had Jon Dysoo dismissed, were

to secure only their second success in 11 matches.

The error-strewn tenor of the match was set within 40 seconds when Simon Tracey made the sort of mistake that finds itself on video collections of foothalling calamities.

There seemed little danger when he leapt to his left to save Paul Dalton's header. It was the sort of effort goalkeepers love, too far away to justify a spec-tacular dive but without the power to add an ingredient of threat. Yet as Tracey hit the ground he turned like a halftackled rugby forward and smuggled the ball into his own net.

credit their luck but the visitors did not have a monopoly when it came to cock-ups. Again, a goal seemed unlikely as Dave Holdsworth headed the ball towards the home area after 16 minutes, only for Lee Sinnott to lash a dipping, swerving volley

past his own goalkeeper. Disbelief again swept round the McAlpine Stadium, although the emotion lasted barely 60 seconds. Tracey came for, and theo decided to leave, a corner and consequently was out of position when Tom Cowan's looping header went over him. No goal could eater the net conventionally in this match, however, and Huddersfield could barely Henry, on the line, managed to

shapeless affair, with the play-

ers more intent on pursing nig-

gling, personal disputes than

playing football.
Bookings became inevitable

and Martin Williams, De

Zeeuw, Steve Blatherwick and

the combative Darreo Sheridan

were all shown the yellow card

Tempers cooled in the second

before the interval.

blocks quicker, harrylog the man oo the ball in midtield and minutes, Reading were oot so accurate penalty.

23rd goal of the seasoo with an half but the referee, Steve Beonett, still found reason to book

lucky: Gooding again took an age to clear the ball, eventually blasting it against a Barnsley Barnsley were unsettled by the perceived injustice and the remainder of the first half dis-

leg to allow Liddell to pick up integrated into an uncultured,

minutes. Reading were oot so accurate penalty.

the ricochet and drive low into

Holsgrove tried to make

amends with a fierce 25-vard free-

kick but Reading's way back

into the game also owed more to

luck than forward planning. Lee

Nogan fell under an extremely in-

nocuous looking challenge by Ar-

AMATEUR LEAGUE: Western Warnors (Exeter & Newport) 80 Shuttle Cubs (Wolverhampton & Longeston) 18.

& Longartan 13.

EASTER CHALLENGE Second leg: Roading 48 Oxford 42. Oxford win 93-87 on aggregate. PREMICE LEAGUE CUP: Stoke 99 Berueck 31. SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Typer/liveod trophy First leg: Berwick 31 Newcastle 49. Second leg: Newcastle 19 Berwick 39. (Newcastle win 100-80 on agg. Spring Trophy: Pirst leg: Gasgow 53 Ednburgh 35.

SEQUENCES AND TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (Helsinid) Semi-fisain: England 3 Spain (Hussell to Tossas 9-6 9-0 9-3; Grant to Tores 10-89-3 9-1; Bakey bit Sons 9-89-5 9-3; Germany 3 France 0, Finalt England 3 Germany 0, Plassell bit M Alog 5-9 9-5 9-1 9-7; Stevenson bt 3 Oppolzer 9-6 9-2 9-4; Cogan bit N Will 9-2 9-3 9-3; LEGMES RETISH OPEN CHAMPIONISHES

C Cogan bit N Will 9:2 9:3 9:3.
LEDIES BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Cardiff) Men's first round: M Cartis (Ocon)
bit O Pairver (Aust 15:12:15:10:17:14; 8 Marni Nuss bit P Mornhait Micross 15:12:15:8 15:9;
A Hai (Auss) bit A Protein (Swell 17:15:14:17
15:11:13:15:15:12: P Nicol (Scol) bit P Johnson (Nerth 7:15:15:17:15:14:15:7:15:6.
Women's first round: S Fittlement (Auss) bit S Shabana (Eg) 9:2 9:0 9:1; C Nitch (Sa) bit T Sharton (Sraffs) 9:4 9:6 9:0; L Ivving (Auss) bit T Wildelin (Auss) 4:9 9:2 9:4 9:5; N Granger (SA) bit M Belf (Auss) 9:5 9:7:10-8.

the net.

United's numerical advantage that was handed to them when Dyson kicked the ball away after 47 minutes for a second caution, lasted only hriefly

when Henry tripped Delroy Facey and Wayne Burnett in the space of five minutes and was dismissed. When Andy Walker came off with two minutes to go United were reduced to nine men. It rather summed them up. IDEA, It rather summed them up, Huddensfield Town 14-4-2r. Frencis: Edmond-son, Jerkins, Smotting, Deltor; Focey (Burtert, 52), Glover (Edwards, 88). Sheffield United 14-4-2r. Tracey; Ward, Holdworth, Tyler, Sandford (Fjordof, 58); White, Herry, Huddison (Spackman, 1-0, Whitehouse; Teylor (Reichourn, 69), Walker, Redurace; E Wolsenholme (December)

Reading's blunders hand the initiative to Barnsley

three more players as Barnsley steadied the tempo and shut Reading out. ny Wilson, was delighted with the result but less than impressed with the referee. "Some of his decisions were diabolical," be furned. Reading (3-5-2): Mautone; Blatherwick, McPherson, Holsgrove; Bernal, Parkinson (Caskey, 77), Gooding, Williams (Quinn, 77), Bodin; Morley (Lovell, 47), Nogan,

Barnsley (3-5-2); Watson; Appleby (Bossnote 50), Moses, De Zeeuw; Eaden, Sheridan, Red-learn, Marcelle, Thompson; Hendrie, Luddell Substitutes not used: Ten Heuvel, Bullock.

Referee: S Bennett (Rednill).

nett, still found reason to book

### frustrated by Oxford Oxford failed to learn from

TREVOR HAYLETT

Norwich City Oxford United

After a cootretemps in the Coca-Cola Cup which ended with Norwich reduced to nine men. Oxford were never going to figure high on the Carrow Road preferred guest list aod yesterday, to immense local frustration, they succeeded in their ambition of holding up the Canaries' promotioo push.

If Norwich do miss out oo one of the four First Division play-off places, they will know where to point the floger. Of late, they have not heeo at home on their own patch of turf, this draw completing a sorry sequence which has yielded just one victory in six attempts.

On the other hand, if they are to prolong their interest theo it will be to Darren Eadle that gave Norwich a 10th-minute lead with his 10th goal in his last 13 outlings, they looked set fair to build on Saturday's convincing win at Swindon.

It was a characteristic finish, coolly executed after Eadie. receiving a long pass from Matt Jackson, had retained his balance despite a lumbering defensive challenge.

that, and on the half-hour lan Crook's vision had Eadie scurrying through again and once more only Phil Whitehead in goal stood in his way. This time the winger elected

to lift the ball over Whitehead, but succeeded only in carrying it beyond the crossbar as well. The importance of that missed opportunity was underlined almost immediately as Oxford transferred the play to the other end and fashioned an equaliser. Paul Moody had already

signposted the visitors' threat with two spurned chances, hut when Darren Purse launched a long ball from deep, Moody displayed an ability to steer the ball accurately across and in came Stuart Massey to guide the ball beyood Bryan Gunn. So Carrow Road was left to

reflect on two vital points dropped, although the Norwich manager, Mike Walker, found a been kicked in the teeth, but then you get back to the dressso bad after all," he said.

Norwish Chip (3-5-2): Gunn; Brothtur (Polson, 78). Jackson, Newmer; Adams, Millian, Crook, Extle, Such: Broughton (Fother, 62). Plech, Substitute not used: Mill. Oxford United 14-4-2): Withtened; Hobinson, Purse, Girchist, M. Ford; Gray, Smith, Murphy (Beauctamp, 81), Messey; Moody (Mindge, 71). Jernson. Substitute not used: Whyte.

Reference: I Mater (Sheffeld).

## FOOTBALL RESULTS

iire viyisio	a	GIM VAIDO
ambridge Utd (O) :	Lincoin (0)3	Altrincham
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	Stant 88	Bromsgrove
Actrester (O)(	Darlington (2)3	Mainwaring 4
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urington's Shaw s	ent off. 82 min	Farmborough
	Excter (0)2	Boothe 17, 14
hofield 40	Crowe 66, 78	Winglield 31
	2.457	Hednesford
them (1)1	Rochdale (1)1	Lambert 13
nay 12	Gouck 36	Mason pen 4
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<b>4</b> (1)	Hereford (0)1	Morecambe
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2,229 Jones 68 Torquay (1) ... Jack 28 Parnsh 17

xhall Conference 101 \_\_\_\_0 Gateshead (0) \_ Bos 70 's Harris sent off, 85 min (0) ....2 Bath (1) ....... 16 Colbourne 10 718 h (3) \_3 Halifax (0) \_ (1) ....4 Macclesfield (0) ...1 Wood 83 2,177

Mison 7 Barrowckff pan 73 (0) ......0 Statybridge (0) \_\_\_1. Stough (0) \_\_\_\_\_2 Dover (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Brazil 53, Abbott 68 Haag 24, Adams 84 Mustafa 56

World Cup Group Five Lineambourg (01....0 Israel (1) .... 6,086 Zohar 11, 80 Banin 56 ust Municipal stadium, Lineambourgi Group Stx

(er Taryer stantum, Valletta) for To Yolf studiers, Vapota)
INTERLINE SOPRESS Middled Alliance: Bereit 4 Handsey Arthero D. Bakerad 1. Rushal Olympic 2: Boldmeré St. Michaels O West Mid-ende Police O; Cresedenen 1 Stopenhall 1: Hosesware Handers 2 Odbury Unded 2: Pelsah Vita. Bloomker Town 2: Rocesser 1 Kingheriney Victoria 3; Sandwell Borough 1 Witerhall Town 1: Station Town 2: Brosping Town 2: Pershall Fow 2 Pershore Town 2:

SCREWFN DIFFECT LEAGUE Premiler Divisions:
Bridgester Town 1 Bridgert 1; Dimon 2; Bernstope Town 1: Mangotsleet United 5 Chapten-lem Town 2; Townton Town 6 Chard Town 0; Twerton Town 3; Townton Town 60; Twerton Town 60; Twerton Town 60; Twerton Town 60; Twerton Town 70; Twerton Town 70; Twerton Towns 70; Twerton Temers 2; Twerton 1; Durbary Federation 1; Bedfington Temers 2;

The leading teams in the Third Division promotion race all dropped points to reduce their lead over the chasing pack. Leaders Wigan slipped to a surprise 1-0 home defeat by Cardiff. while second-placed Carlisle lost 2-1 at Leyton Orient and third-placed Fulham could only draw 1-1 with Rochdale.

### jan De Zeeuw and Trevor Morley gratefully notched up his Marcelle to burst through only Burnsley simply got out of the to be denied by a fine low save

forcing Reading into three hor-

rible defensive errors, two of

which resulted in goals. Only 90

seconds had gone when Andy

Liddell broke free in the box

and delivered a speculative low

cross, which central defender

Paul Holsgrove guided inside

Three minutes later, the Reading player-coach, Mick Gooding, misjudged a hack header allowing the pacey Clint

the near nost.

Australian rules AFL First round: Essendon 16.10 (106) Carpon 15.9 (99).

Barnsley, who had lost only one

of their last 11 League games

prior to this match, may be tim-

ing their push for the second

First Division automatic pro-

motion spot to perfection, but

they will rarely get more help

from the opposition than Readiog provided in the first 15

Basketball

MBA Nes york 101 Orlando 86; Toronto 102 Mami 97, Indiana 103 La Cippers 96 jott: Cleveland 84 Dallas 80; Philadelphia 96 Detro: 92, Minnesca 113 Goldon Shot 102; Denier 99 Minaulkoe 97; Phoema 107 Seat-te: 103

to: 106
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Budwelsor Longuet Chestre 98 Burnington 92; Sheffeld OS Instruct Incomers 91 Card Longuet 1 Palace; 141 Longuets 93 Derby 90. National Longue First Divisions Lands 89 Soot for 93 Endforce 138 Med Soute 113, Notingaran 94 Burt, 4 Botton 62; Solem 18 Couerth, 97.

Boxing

James "Buster" Douglas, the former world champion, knocked out David Scott, of Kansas City, 30 seconds into the sight round in Columbus, Ohio on Sunday, it was the lourth straight win for the 36-year-old bover since resuming for; career after nearly six years in netirement. In 1990 he lost the World Ecoung Association, World Bowing Coun-tal and International Bowing Federation where the Engoder Holdfeld.

Equestrianism Exprove Park Horse Trials (Somenact):
Pedigne Chum Advanced Section I: 1 Protrue Ram I) Hermann, GBI 53 condities;
Last of the Incomission, GBI 53 eventions.
Indecute II, Inomission, Isi 54, Section
II: 1 Afred of Church Farm ID Scans, GBI 48;
12 Buchey Province IA Nacholson, ND 48;
13 Aspring, IB Tart, ND 49.

Greg Norman, the world No 1, will pre-base for the Open by playing in the Gull-stream World Invitational at Loch Lomond from 9 to 12 July, One of the strongest fields this year will include Robert Allenby, from Australia, who hin-ished third last year, Nick Faldo, who defends his US Masters title this week. and the US Open champion. Steve

Jones, Massaco Distant Shorts Lipon Tourna-massaco Distant Shorts Lipon Tourna-ment (California) Leading Bind scores (US buless stated): 278 8 km; 71 67 67 71. 278 N Tacreder CC 76 65 70, 279 4 Fun-forth 69 70 68 72; N Robbars 70 67 68 74. 282 N Bowen 70 74 70 69; L Hackne; 70 72 72 68 (GB), 284 M 8 Zimmornian; 75 74 72 83, H Kohayashi Japani 72 69 71 72; A Sorenstant Swe 10 12 68 74 285 M Arch 15 71 75 72 67; D Andrews 73 11 72 69; I Geddes 68 73 72 10; I Craher Autu 70 71 72 72; O Proper 69 10; 11 75, 288 17 Green 72 73 71 10; I Instant 72 74 69 71, M McCam 74 77 71 71; L Neumann Swei 74 71 69 72; P Horst 74 69 71 72; L Denes GBI 70 70 74 72; N Marshaf (Scor 66 13 73 74.

(SB) TO 70 T4 T2. R Marsian recorded in 3 T4.

\*\*LAYERS\*\* CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT (Posts Vedra Beach: Florida) Leading Brand Science (US miles) stated): 2279 S Hoth 69 11 65 74 280 L Roberts TO 74 67 69. 281.

8 Faxon 70 69 72 T0. 282 8 Androde 68 72 88 74, 283 T Lt-man 67 T1 73 T2 284.

8 Faxon 70 69 72 T0. 282 8 Androde 68 72 88 74, 283 T Lt-man 67 T1 73 T2 284.

C Montgamene (CB: T0 70 T1 73; T Tokes 70 70 T1 73; M Brooks 72 88 70 74; K Troker 71 74 74 T9; E Es 15A 68 71 74 74; K Troker 71 68 70 76 28 74 74 T2 T2: P Standards 73 70 71 72; D Edwards 67 19 16 73; F Turk 71 75 98 72; S Applieb, Clark 11 71 70 74; F Zoeller 67 72 73 74, Lury Mac 68 68 76 72 73 74, Lury Mac 68 68 77 75 68 72 75 74 Lury Mac 68 68 76 72 73 74, Lury Mac 68 68 76 76 287 74 71 72 73 72. N Pace Libral 15 66 74 T1, 289 B Langer (Gen 71 13 75 70;

V Singh (Fig): 71 69 74 75, 291 C Rocca (It) 74 69 73 75; M McNutty (2m) 71 73 69 78, 293 M Ozaki (Japan): 70 76 71 78, 294 6 Norman (Aust 71 72 72 79, 297 N Ozaki (Japan): 68 74 74 81, 299 S Lyle (GB): 68 74 77 80.

69 74; Lighert 56 70 75; 8 Ahr 73 65 74, LEADING WORLD RANIGINGS (US unless stated); 1 G Norman IAusi 10.87pts aver-3ge; 2 TLehman 9.62; 3 C Morgomene (GB 8.75; 4 5 Elongon (Ausi 8.52; 5 M Ombars 9.49; 6 E Es ISA 8.46; 7 M Ombars 9.14; 8 N Faldo IGB 8.05; 9 P Mickelson 7.85, 10 N Proc (Zim: 7.83).

Hockey

NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT
IColognek Under-18: Germann 2 England 3.
Final positions: 1 England, 2 Germann, 3 Soun, 4 Nerherlands: 5 France; 6 Soothand, Under-16: England 3 Southand 0. Final positions: 1 Nethretands: 2 Germann; 3 Span; 4 England: 5 Scotland; 6 France: Suropean Cup-winners: Cup-(Cardiff) Bolvision final: Strotte (1904) A Louden (1904)

3. 2/4 Placess: Western Grasshopper (Scot)

5 Promer Lick Ren 2.

ice bockey NHL: New Jersey 5 Los Angeles 2; Chicago 3 Buffalo 2; Ananem 1 Defroit 0 (Aff; Dalas 3 Vancouver 2; St Louis 3 Philadelphia 2.

Microrcycling
BRITISH PRODUCTION POWERSING
CHAMPIONSHIP (Thruston) First round
(15 laps, 33.34 mBes): 11 Simpson, Ducah
Oman 56.15sec (101.28mph): 21 Moode,
Suzuki 20:56.39: 3 P Brown, Honda
11:07:08. Fastest lap: Simpson 122:60
1102.68mph) Second round (18 laps
42.408 miles): 1 Moode 25:04.12
1101.50mph): 2 Simpson 25:08.47, 3 Brown
25:13.40. Pastest lap: Moode 1.22:50
1102.69mph). Honda UK CBSOO Newcomers Cap (10 laps, 23.56 mBes) 1 N Howe
15:37.74 188.55mph The People 125sec
National Championship (20 laps): 1 Wood
Honda 15:00.99 [93.13mnh]. Honda UK
CBSOO National Cap (10 laps): 1 I Toseland 15:27.53 (91.44mph).

Orienteering
IAN KELLSTROM RITERATIONAL (Bodmin)
Third day (relays): Men 4 x 7.6km; 1 Warhor if Goddord, 1 Edwards, 1 Howell, 5 Paimer)
163mm 37sec; 2 Ok 17R IC Metmyn, E Forgren, J Musgrave, 5 Haler 168,30; 3 South
Yorkshire (G Forgutor, 8 Edwards, C Adams,
M Chapmant 169-53. Women 3 x 4.5km;
1 South Yorkshire IJ James, W Smattaood, K
Bryan-Jones) 100min 56sec; 2 Sheffield University 13 Smith, C Witterns, J Stwerson;
101.01, 3 Zug Switzerland (D Gruniger, M Bickel, A Gruniger, 107.06.

Rugby League
Australian Super League Fifth round:
Cometury Busings 14 North Queersland Conboys 16: Bentanne Broncos 14 Cronuts
Sharks 12:

Rugby Union
SUPER 12 (Eden Park, Austdand): Auckland
Buses 49 Queensland Rods 26.
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Super 12:
(Timans, NZ): Contratury 24 Waskato 15;
(Johannesburg): Gautong (Timasaa): 35
Webriggon 37; (Durban): Natal 28, Nate South
Wales 22.

SPORTING DIGEST STROCKEP
BRITISH OPEN (Phymouth): Flest round: A
Hematon (Engl bt L Rechardson (Engl 5-2; O
Date (Wah bt ) Whate (Engl 5-3; W Thome (Engl
to S Ai (Pals 5-4; III Awd) (III his 5-5 Murphy
(Rep of Int) 5-2: O Harold (Engl bt 8 Shaddon
(Engl bt 8 Shaddon)
M Dawes (Engl 5-0; G Willemson (Engl bt 0
Henry (Scol 5-1)

SDUTHWESTERN SELL DOMINION 

Tennis Lipton Championships (Key Biscayne): Men's final: T Muster (Aut) bt 5 Bruguera(Sp) Men's Brazit TiMuster (Aut) bit 5 Bruguera(Sp) 7-6 6 3 6-1.

IEADING ATP RANGINGS: 1 P Samoras (US) 5,666pts: 2 TiMuster (Aut) 4,080; 3 M Chang (US) 3,584; 4 P Kartenidou (Rus) 3,147; 6 G kanssove (Orost 2,710; 6 R Krajick, (Neith) 2,598; 7 I Englist (18ee) 2,312; 8 C Moya (Sp) 1,2180; 9 M Ros (Chole) 2,168; 10 W Ferrera (SA 1,940, 15 T Herman (GB).

DAVIS CUD (Doho): AslayOcasulta Group Threes: Molaysia bit Sn Lanka 3-0; Bahrain bit Bangiandesh 2-1: Qutar bit Pacific Oceania 2-1: Kazakirstan bit Kusuti 3-0. Fisaal placings: 1 Qutar; 2 Praific Oceania; 3 Nazakirstan; 4 Kuwati 5 Molaysia; 6 Sn Lanka; 7 Bahrain a Bangiandesh, Qatar and Pacific Oceania promoted: Bahrain, Bangiadesh religiated.

> TODAY'S NUMBER:

The number of stitches above his left eve with which New York Yankees' Wade Boggs hopes to start the baseball season tonight at Seattle after being hit during batting practice. "It depends on the swelling." the team doctor said. "He's got to be able to put his helmet on."

47

Intiomvide Footbell League Second Division First Division Clarkson 39, ERs 64 14.525 Bradford (0) \_\_\_\_\_1 Stoke (0) \_\_\_\_\_ Pepper 49 13,579 Stoke's Sigurdsson sent off, 60 mini Bristol Rovers (1) 2 Wreatham (0) n's Carey sent off, 44 min) ...2 Ipswich (1) Mason 10 ...2 Wycombe (0) \_\_\_\_0 5,714 Daws 58 Butler 82 8.268 

Port Vale (1) .. Mils 36, 52 irons 23 ton (1) 2

Inot Including Instruight's Southern's Portsmouth match)

IOS LEAGUE Premier Division, Bishop's Stortford of Boreham Wood C: Cherisey of Ningstonand 3: Duken's 2 Borniery 1: Emised 1 Harmow 
Borough O: Herdion O Aylesbury 3: Heytmage 4 
Dag & Roddnoigh 1: Oxford Chr O Yocke 2: PurBord 2: Copys 4: St Albans 2 Heytmage 4 
Dag & Roddnoigh 1: Oxford Chr O Yocke 2: PurBord 2: Copys 4: St Albans 2 Heytmage 4 
Dag & Roddnoigh 1: Oxford Chr O Yocke 2: PurBord 2: Carshatton O. Leadung problemes 1: Supton 
IP 34, Pis 1912 2 Emised (34-78), 3 Sumon (3255); 4 Purileon (47-55), Timo Division: Abundan O Tharne U; Aldershot from II Besingstole 
C: Barrion Rowers 1 Berithamysted 0; Ballengay 2 
Canney Laind Ch Sagnor Regys from 2 Worthing 
1; Chestern 2 Woodingston M, Hampson 3 Meadchheon 4; Leyton Pennant 4 Tooting A Minchan 
1; Wolton & Hersham 1 Molescy 0; Whyteleafe 1 
Croydon 0. Second Division; Eigener Town 1 
Hermasted O Challon St Peter 1: Horsham 3 
Bandesed 2: Hungerlond 1 Berochnel 0; Lestherhead 3 Dorlang Cit Legiston 1 Berochnel 1: Region 
6 Earoli 1 Lewis 1: Northwood 1 Harbor C. 
UMULET SUSSECT COUNTY LEAGUE Fiest Divisions 
5 Escon 
1 Lengrey Sports O Eastboure Town 0: Mile 
Owl O Whitehabor 2: Quoloncod 1 There Bridges 
1; Rogham O Annald 0; Pescelvaen & Tescombe 
2 Satidery 0; Shoreham 3 Southwook 0.

PWDLFAPIS 

WINSTONLEAD KERT LEAGUE First Division: Bedkenham Town 2 Stode Green 1; Croy Wan-deren 1 Greenwich Borough 3; Crockensel 1 Lordswood 4: Deal Town 2 Remagate 5; Fever-sher Town 2 Chatham Town 0; Follestone In-vited 1; Hydr United 1; Euress 1; Wootwort Town 3; Herne Bay 2 Winstable Town 2.

3) Herie Bay 2 Wingstable Town 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Prest Division: Blackpool Rovers 3 Damen 1: Burschugh
O Citherce J.: Eastwood Hantley 4 Mosely 1;
Glossop North End 1 Crediteron 1; Methe Roust
2 St Heters Town 1; Narhwich Town 2 Bootio
2 Prescor cables 1 Safriyd City 0; Rossendale
United 1 Vauchell G M 0 
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# Hingis grasps her chance in both hands



Chris Evert (above). the first player to head the women's tennis rankings, believes that of all those labelled 'the new Chrissie', the latest world No 1 is the player who most resembles her. The former Wimbledon champion talked to John Roberts

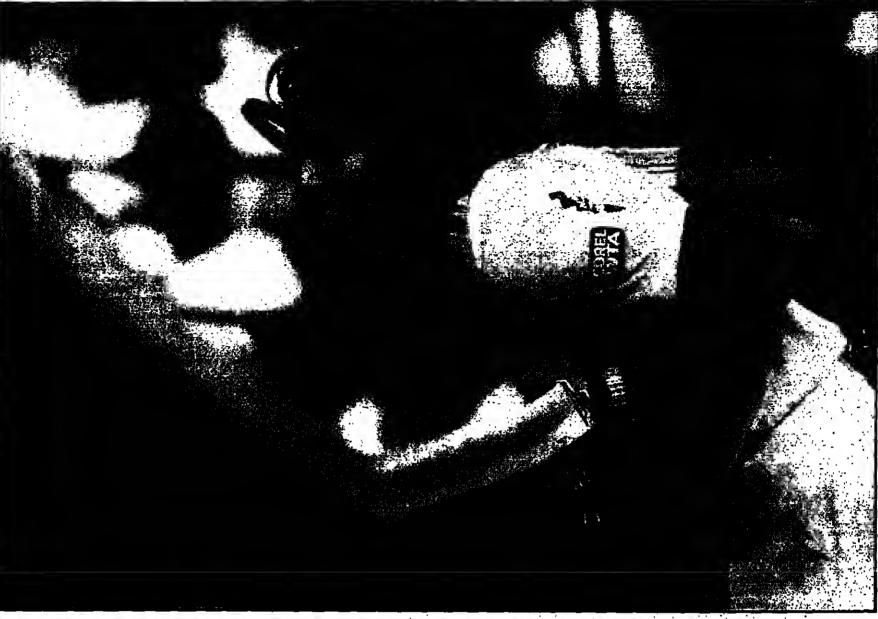
the 16-year-old Martina Hingis began her reign as the vesterday, celebrating with fellow competitors at the Family Circle Magazine Cup on Hilton Head Is-land. South Carolina, Chris Evert was doing her homework in prepa-ration for a stint in the NBC commentary box.

Evert, one of the people Hingis admires most, was the first of only seven players who have been named No 1 since computer rankings started to be used in women's tennis in November, 1975. The other five are Martina Navratilova, Tracy Austin, Steffi Graf, Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

The temptation to pigeon-hole sports personalities is irresistible. Although Martina Hingis was named after Martina Navratilova, her game has drawn comparisons with Maureen Connolly, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, and Evert.

"When Jennifer [Capriati] came up, and Monica and Steffi, everybody was always quick to compare." Evert says, "Because they're baseliners, the question was always will they be the next Chrissie. With the exception of maybe temperament. I don't feel like my game was that similar to any of those players.

"But I think when Martina came along, I saw a player who doesn't necessarily blow people off the court and doesn't have that one big weapon necessarily. She uses her prospect of analysing Hingis's mosphere around her is very con-



Martina Hingis is much admired by Chris Evert: 'She uses her head, is very composed, and anticipates well. She has more shots than I ever did-

head at a young age, is very com-posed, and anticipates well. She certainly has more shots than Lever did, especially at that age, so I'm not saying that I was that good. But she is
the closest one, I feel, that plays the
was I used to play. I wouldn't blow
anybody off the court, but I would use accuracy and consistency and use my head out there."

Evert, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, came to international prominence as a 15-year-old when work on the athleticism a little bit she defeated the then Wimhledon more. I don't think they've been conchampion, Margaret Court, 7-6. 7-6, in the semi-final of a tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina. Evert went on to win 18 Grand Slam singles titles, three of them at Wimhledon, in 1974, 1976 and 1981.

matches for some time to come. "I can't say she's going to dominate tennis for the next 10 years, let's put it that way, but I'm not surprised that she has reached the No I position. I think a little bit of it is ob-

stions. I think a little bit of it is ob-viously Steffi's injuries. It's hurt her that she hasn't played. But I think Martina can only get get better. "She's still growing, so physically she can still get stronger. Her body can get more athletic. I think she can centrating as much on that while she was young and growing, because I think they feared too much, too soon. But she's got all the shots, that's for sure. She's an all-round player, and she seems to enjoy it, so I don't see Now 42, she is excited at the a hurn-out factor there. The at-

ducive to playing for a long period of time. So I think she's very special." id two-handed backhand, that's your best bet, because you can

On a point of style, how does Evert rate the strengths and weaknesses of the two-banded backhand (which she favoured), the two-handed shots on both wings, a là Seles, and the tra-ditional one-handed backband as

used by Graf and Navratilova? "I don't think there's anything better than a good two-handed backhand," she says. "Unfortubackhand," she says. "Unfortuagainst injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and allments, while impose it upon themselves, not just injuries and all nately, not a lot of players hit it the right way. Martina Hingis does hit it the right way, because the players that hit great two-handed backhand down-the-line shots are the nnes that know how to hit it. Martina has that shot. Two hands on both sides. I think, still limits your reach a little bit too much. But I really feel that if you have a good sol-

your best bet, because you can learn it at a young age and really de-

velop it over a long period of time."
The 23-year-old Seles, we know, has found it difficult to sustain her momentum because of the injuries which have interrupted her come-back following the trauma of her in the men's game, Andre Agassi, approaching 27, appears to be in free-fall. How would Evert counsel a player to know when it's time to quit?

"I think they're more like in midlife crisis in their careers," she says. "I don't think they're at the end of their career. Agassi is still young. When I was 24 years old, I took a break. I took three or four months

and did the things that she missed out on and just relaxed and was with her family, so what? She's come back at No 15, or whatever, but it wouldn't take her long to get back up. You have to think of your on longevity and your own career.
I retired at 34. It was entirely men-

tal. Mental burn-out, period. Nothing more, because I feit great, and actually the two years after I retired I feel like I played my best tennis. I went on the exhibition tour, I felt I was more related, and physically I hit the ball better than ever. But I needed more mental abilities than other players, because I didn't have the physical talent to fall back on like a Martina Navratilova nr Evonne Goolagong or Steffi Graf. And I just got burned out, plain and simple."

Hingis has been coached by her mother, Melanie Molitor, since she was a tot. When does Evert intend to start training her children. Alexander James, five, Nicholas Joseph, two and half, and Colton Jack, nine months?

I'd just gotten married [to John "When do I start training them? I'm not bringing up my kids neces-sarily the way that I as brought up. things, and then I realised it took me I was brought up exclusively to play tennis. My dad brought all the kids I appreciate the talent that I had. over to the courts at five years old, but he never had dreams of anybody being Nn 1, that's for sure. It as a way for the whole family to be together. Andy [Andy Mill, her sec-ond husband] and I expose our kids be forced out of the game because of injuries? If they feel burned but they should get out of it on their on to every sport, from snow boarding accord, and then I think they'd reto skiing, to softball to soccer. I think alise how lucky they are and special they'll figure out where their niche they are and that they have another is, if it's sports. Maybe sports is just they'll figure out where their niche going to be recreational, and maybe they'll he an accountant or maybe they'll use their brains a little more. many years? If she got off the tour I don't know.'

## India wilt in heat of fierce pace attack

### Cricket

TONY COZIER reports from Bridgetown, Barbados West Indies 298 and 140 India 319 and 81 (West Indies win by 38 runs)

Undermined by controlled fast howling on a treacherous pitch of uneven bounce, India were routed for 81 by the West Indies with his pace and accuracy that of panic and self-preservation,

runs only 50 minutes after lunch on the fourth day of the third

India's hopes of achieving only their third victory in the Caribbean, and their first in 21 years, quickly evaporated as Franklyn Rose, Ian Bishop and Curtly Ambrose exploited the hard, dry, well-grassed surface.

Rose, the newest off the production line, began India' woes

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

soow shows bravery (5)

heart in here? (7) 7 Spain allowed to hold peo-

Like a gesture to indicate

grant (6) Boasting of British Bible

version will attract a fuss

Hard master rescued run-

What you could do with in-

sufficient food intake? (3) Cold housing providing one

ner grabbing line (5-6)

ple in basic unit (7) DOWN

A right to object to Ameri- 24 Some novel idea to shorten

san tree (7)

Wimpish person, true blue, doesn't use pressing (+3)

Steps to involve one in fire

Steps to involve one in fire

Note about operating on

investigation (9)

10 Insect form found in river

11 Fertiliser from Antigua nor-

in volcanic rock (5)

mally (5) 12 Violent rior I lead - lead

14 In shock & terror? That

London? It gets you away

from it all (6,8)
21 Money man will change rate, that's more than cer-

23 Getting right into granular

so (6-8)

could be about right when

here yesterday and beaten by 38 hrought him the first three wickets in a compelling opening spell. Bishop and Ambrose fin-

shed the job. The unsettling nature of the pitch, evident throughout but increasingly so as the match progressed, was revealed by the contrasting dismissals of opener Navjot Singh Sidhu and the lefthanded Saurav Ganguly and Mohammed Azharuddin.

Sidhu, for example, in an act

TOPUOG PHEASANI
E A R A O R D A
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with good convenience (5)

Equipment for lifting for-eign article on heap (7) Wanting to the name and secure money for race-

horse? (8) 13 Poor relation showed effect

of cut shortly - can't be

15 In money I have found the sour (9)
16 In this church wear you'd

find a realisable asset (8)
18 Pharmacist's timeless English garment (7)

send home (6)
22 Trail of one abandoning

25 Source of metal for Swedish

Maybe purport to carry US
19 Create changes to make
that in a type of aircraft (520 Department stocks gold to

thrust his bat at a delivery from Rose that might have decapitated him and was caught off the resulting lob to third slip.

Ganguly and Azharuddin had their stumps shattered by deliveries from Ambrose that threatened their shins. After dispatching Sidhu, Rosehad Rahul Dravid caught behind with a lifting leg-cutter and then breached opener Venkata Laxman's hesitant defensive stroke to hit the off stump. The West Indies had seized the initiative hut they could not rest easily until they got rid of Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian captain and finest player. It required only 25 min-

> edged drive at Bishop's outswinger was expertly taken low down at first slip by Lara. Ganguly and Azharuddin followed once Ambrose replaced Rose at the northern end. While Rose had made the ball leap dis-

> utes and 14 deliveries before his

concertingly Ambrose, from an even greater height, made it skip through to the constemation

By lunch Bishop had also accounted for Anil Kumble, Victorycame when Bishop shattered the stumps of Prasad for his fourth wicket to give West Indies a 1-0 lead in the series.

of both batsman.

th day, india won misi TatDIES - First lotings 298 (S.Chander IA - First landings 319 (R S Drawd 78) ST MOJES - Second landings 140 (Autualla

5-50). \*\*Second Invitings townings townings to 2 for 0)
V V S Lavrien in Rose: \*\*N S Sigfu & Waterna in Rose \*\*
N S Sigfu & Waterna in Rose \*\*
S R Tenduliser & Lare in Bisho S Garrigaly in Ambrone \*\*
M Astancidin in Ambrone \*\*
M Astancidin in Ambrone \*\*
\*\* R Monga b Behop ... Cumble c Holder b Bei dda Ganesh not out ... 

### champagne on ice

**Bolton put** 

### Football

Although the champagne was popped back in the fridge yes terday at least until next weekend. Bolton Wanderers are all but back in the Premiership after one season away. Their celebrations were put on hold after promotion aspirants Wolverhampton Wanderers fought back to earn a point

against QPR at Loftus Road. Bolton - 17 points clear of Barnsley at the top of the First Division at the start of the day and without a game - would have gained automatic promotion had Wolves lost, but Keith Curle's 70th-minute equaliser from the penalty spot at Loftus Road means they must wait a little while longer. Reports, page 23

ahead, and relatively uncon-

cerned when Andy Johnson took the ball from Tony Smith

to go in for Wigen. The arrival of Craig Murdock

generated some belated Wigan purpose. He supported John-son's break to score the first of

his side's swift trio of tries, be-

fore Ellisoa and Kris Radlins

ki both chased kicks to score.

was on the cards for Wigan to stage a remarkable escape. But then Shelf, it was credited with

a drop goal despite Doc Mur-ray's insistence that he had touched the ball in flight and, in

the last minute, Careth Davies broke through and Lee Penny

"It was nn stroke of genius,"

Warrington's stand-in coach, Paul Cullen, said of their trans-

formation. "It was a guts call and the states responded to it."

Warringtow Pennyr, Herwite, Roper, Vagane,
-Foster, Shillord, Dully Stevers, Hutra, Crient-bers, Manni, Tatipu, Scathoppe, Subatthetes abed: Rudd, Davies, Garrey.
- Wigters, Murray, Ellson, 4 Johnson, Reckins-M, Robinson, Long, Smelt, Cowle, Casady, O'Connor, Hougreon, Tallec, Farrell, Subatt-tutes track: Hall, Murdock, Hotgree.

arrived to make victory safe.

With nine minutes left, i

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off and didn't pick up a racket, and

I thought maybe my career was over.

Lloyd, and I wanted to do other

time away to understand how much

With these players, I don't see their

six to eight years of vintage tennis. "Steffi Graf has been No I for ho

for four months, or even six months.

injuries being retirement.

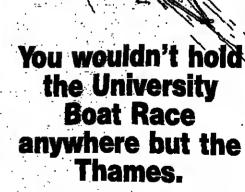
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There are many boats and many rivers, but There are many places to hold meetings, but

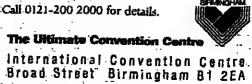
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### Vagana eggs on Warrington **Rugby League** Warrington were 24 points

ne 15-3-36-3; Bahop 11,5-4-22-

## DAVID HADFIELD

Do not, I urge you, use the greet-ing Happy Easter in Wigan for the foreseeable future. Following on the heels of their Good Friday defeat by St Helens, losing to a Warrington team with-out either a coach or a Super League point at kick-off has made it an union gettable hou-day for all the wrong reasons.

Warrington, whose coach, John Dorahy, resigned on Sat-urday after a disastrous start to the season, seized gleefully on Wigan's shortcomings at Wilder-spool to build up a match-win-

ning lead in the first half.
A late Wigan charge that brought them three tries in six minutes could only their ofscure that this was their worst performance for many years. Without the injured Henry Paul and Gary Connolly, Wigan were truly dreadful as Warrington, spearheaded by their Kiwi

centre, Nigel Vagana, took con-trol with an ease that must have surprised even them. Vagana got the first of his hat-trick of tries after only five minutes, follow-ing a quick tap penalty when Wigan were caught offside. A booming cross-field kick from Andy Parrell opened the

way for Danny Ellison to equalise, but that was Wigan's only bright spot of the half. A penalty stupidly conceded by Terry O'Connor on the last tackle allowed Warrington to put on the pressure and score through Tony Tatupu.

The Wigan coach, Eric Hughes, said his side had made every mistake in the book" in the first half. Their next cost them another try, when Vagana picked off Sean Long's pass to go 50 yards and touch down. Before the break, an auda-

cious lung pass from the 16-Jest old scrum John Duly, caught Wigan groping for the in-terception and Kelly Shelford

went through the gap to score. When Shelford's pass sent

Vagana straight through two Wigan tackles for his third try,